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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 April Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah's Khalaf on Moscow Visit, Syria *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 Apr]* 3
PLO's Abu Iyad Views Palestinian Uprising *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 5 Apr]* 3
'Atallah 'Atallah Comments on Shultz Plan *[Amman AL-QUDS 11 Apr]* 4
Commentary Says U.S. 'Main Antagonist' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 5

South Asian Regional Affairs

Afghanistan, Pakistan Sign Geneva Accord *[Kabul]* 6
Soviets, U.S. Guarantors *[AFP]* 6
'Main Points' Disclosed *[AFP]* 7
Afghan Resistance Sympathizers Demonstrate *[AFP]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Reportage on Hijacking Situation 13-14 Apr 9
Kuwaitis, Khdiri Continue Talks 9
Official Enters Plane 9
Official Leaves Plane 9
Solution 'Imminent' 9
'Happy End' Foreseen 10
Plane Moved 14 Apr 10
Resumption of Talks Awaited 10
Bendjedid Meets Al-'Usaymi 10
Hostage's 'Verbal Message' 10
Negotiations 'Suspended' 11
Cleaners, Doctor Board Plane 11
2 Hostages Said Released *[AFP]* 11
'Intense Activity' at Airport 11
Doctor Sees Passengers 11
Mughaniyah Said 'Commander' *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 13 Apr]* 11

Chad

Libyan Planes 'Violate' Airspace 13 Apr 11
Lake Chad Commission Issues Communique 11

Egypt

Mubarak To Begin 2-Day Visit to Jordan 14 Apr 12
Mubarak Assures Kuwait's Al-Sabah of Support 12
Hijacking Detracts From Palestinian Uprising *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Apr]* 12
Israel Said Planning To Hit Saudi Missiles *[AL-SHA'B 5 Apr]* 13
Iranian Attempts To 'Infiltrate' Foiled *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Mar]* 13
AL-WAFD on Israeli Infiltration Claims *[4 Apr]* 13
Opposition Unites Against Emergency Law *[AL-SHA'B 5 Apr]* 14

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Arab Ties, Support for IRA *[London ITV Television]* 15
Delegations Arrive for Terrorism Seminar 16
Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Opening 16
Somali Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 16
Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary 16

Mauritania

Release of Former Ministers 'Confirmed' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Apr]* 16
Leader Receives USSR Ambassador 12 Apr 16

Sudan

Parliament Approves Political Program 12 Apr 16
Further on Assembly Vote 17
Al-Mahdi on Consultations 17
Party Support Noted 18

Tunisia

French Paper Interviews President Ben Ali *[Paris LE FIGARO 5 Apr]* 18
Leaders Briefed on Mestiri's U.S. Visit 19
Ben-Ali Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi 20
Prime Minister Receives USSR'S Zaytsev 20
Prime Minister Leaves for Sudan 13 Apr 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Further Reportage on Hijacking of Airliner 21
Libyan Envoy Condemns Hijack 21
Amir Telephones Arab Leaders 21
Iran 'Ordered' Hijacking *[AL-QABAS 12 Apr]* 21
2 Board at Mashhad 21
Released Passengers Arrive 22
Saudis Reaffirm Support 22
Official Thanks Cyprus 22
Officials Favor Death Sentences *[RFL]* 23
Official on Larnaca Events 23
Hijack Victims Buried 23
Commentaries View Hijacking, Terrorism Policy 23
Press on 'Barbaric' Hijack 23
Terrorism Stance Unchanged 24
ARAB TIMES Implicates Iran *[12 Apr]* 25
Defense Minister Interviewed on Security 25

Oman

Daily Reports on Visit by Soviet Delegation *[OMAN DAILY OBSERVER 6 Apr]* 27

PDRY

Al-'Attas, 'Arafat Discuss Palestinian Issues 27

Qatar

Amir Discusses Gulf With Iranian Foreign Minister *[IRNA]* 28

Saudi Arabia

SPA on Paper's 'Accusations' on Missiles 28

IRAQ

Bahraini Prime Minister Makes Statement, Departs 30
'Aziz Returns From Tunis Meeting on 'Uprising' 30
Oil Minister Cited on Production, Pipeline 30
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 30
Communique No 3,133 30
Communique No 3,134 31
Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad 31
Missile Strike on Esfahan 31
Missile Launched at Qom 31
94th Strike on Tehran 31
Commander on Battles in North 32
Protest Made to UN Over Iranian Shelling 32
UN Team Departs After Mission on CW Victims 32

ISRAEL

Likud Accuses Pickering of 'Gross Interference' *[HA'ARETZ 14 Apr]* 33
Shevardnadze Upcoming Mideast Tour Disclosed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 33
Soviets End 20-Year Ban on Ham Radio Contacts *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Apr]* 33
UNRWA Official's Claim of Poison Gas Denied 34
Court Rejects Deportee Appeals; Reasons Cited 34
Conditions Put on Agricultural Exports to EEC *[HA'ARETZ 13 Apr]* 34
Shomron Briefs Knesset on Deployment, Fatalities *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Apr]* 35
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 35
Gazan Death From Tear Gas 35
Salfit Municipality Disbanded 35
Further on 13 Apr Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 36
'Makeshift Bomb' Explodes 36
IDF Fire Kills 1 in Nabulus 36
Update on 14 Apr Incidents 37
New Measures 'To Curb' Unrest *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 37
Local Self-Rule Hindered *[HADASHOT 13 Apr]* 37
Editorial Sees U.S. 'Pressure' Key to Peace *[AL-NAHAR 9 Apr]* 38
Inner Cabinet Approves Navy Procurement Plan 38

JORDAN

USSR's Trubilin Holds News Conference, Departs *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Apr]* 39
Paper Cited on Jordanian-Palestinian Talks *[Abu Dhabi]* 39
Al-Masri Urges EC To 'Intervene' With Israel 39
Shultz Plan, 'Provocative' Statements Viewed *[AL-DUSTUR 12 Apr]* 40
AL-DUSTUR Condemns Deportation of Palestinians *[12 Apr]* 41

LEBANON

2 French Hostages May Be Freed in '24 Hours' *[AFP]* 42
Amal Says Hizballah 'Behind' Kuwaiti Hijacking *[VOL]* 42
Birri Aide Shot, Wounded in West Beirut *[VOL]* 42
Aide Dies *[VOL]* 42
Resistance Groups Attack Lahd, Israeli Targets 42
New Libyan Envoy Comments on Relations *[VOL]* 42

SYRIA

Syria Threatens Action If Hostages Not Freed *[AFP]* 43
Paper Views Shultz Tours, Shamir 'Intransigence' 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

4 Soviet Advisers Killed in Kabul Car Bomb Blast *[AFP]* 44
Najibullah Discusses Power Sharing, Soviet Aid *[Hamburg DPA]* 44
Analysts Say Soviet Withdrawal 'Hazardous' *[AFP]* 44
Refugees in Iran Protest Geneva Agreements *[IRNA]* 45
'Extremists' Attack Mosques, Residential Areas 45
'Extremists' in Helmand Crushed by Border Guards 45
Briefs 45
Soviet-Donated Propaganda Units 45

Bangladesh

Indian Ambassador's Remarks Draw Rebuke *[AFP]* 46

India

Defense Minister Addresses Troops in Siachen 46
AFP: Attempt To Disrupt Visit 46
Gandhi Comments on Issues Before Far East Tour 47
Asserts Siachen Part of Country 47
Gandhi Discussions in SRV To Include Cambodia 47
Sikh Students Federation Factions Dissolved 47
125 'Extremists' Arrested in Bihar 47
Pro-Moscow Party Restores Ties With PRC *[AFP]* 48

Iran

Khomeyni, Tehran Clergy Exchange Letters 48
Bomb Dismantled at Tehran Bus Terminal 48
Larijani Interviewed on Outcome of UN Talks 49
Khamene'i Discusses Issues With Montazeri 50
Meets With Clerics in Qom 50
Khamene'i Receives University Chancellors 50
Majlis Speaker Warns Against Chemical Warfare 50
Kurds Ask Al-Qadhdhafi To Condemn Iraq 51
Musavi Sends Message to Greek Counterpart 51
Air Routes, Oil Agreements Signed With Benin 51
Mohtashemi Holds News Conference on Elections 52
13 Apr Cabinet Session Reviews New Operation 53
Velayati Reports on Recent Tour 53
General Sattari Interviewed on Air Force Role 53
Italian, Belgian Doctors Examine Gas Victims 55
Iraqi Mojahedin, SAIRI Forces Hold Rally 55
Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue 55
Missiles Hit Qom, Esfahan 55
3 Dead in Iraqi Missile Attack 55
2 Missiles Fired at Al-'Amarah 55
Bombings, Ground Operations 55
Iraqi Missile Hits School 56
Communique No 3,171 56
2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad 56

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Calls Ammunition Blast 'Sabotage' *[AFP]* 56
Declines To Name Culprits *[KYODO]* 57
Junejo Addresses Nation on Afghanistan Accord 57
Ziaul Haq, Junejo Hail Accord 60

14 April Middle East and South Asia Review

LD141316 [Editorial Report]

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

Algiers radio announced that negotiations with the hijackers would resume 14 April following "progress" in the talks the previous day. The radio noted that the plane was moved some 500 meters from its original place to allow an aircraft carrying the Zambian president to land safely.

Outside Algeria, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat predicted that Algeria will not be the final destination of the hijackers, and he maintained that Iran is behind the hijacking, according to KUNA.

One of the hostages freed at Larnaca affirmed that the hijackers changed their "team" at Mashhad Airport, stating that one of them left and two others joined the plane there, KUNA noted. New weapons were also brought on the plane at Mashhad, he contended.

The hostage, who holds both Egyptian and U.S. nationality, said he would have been the first to be killed if the hijackers had found the U.S. passport in his briefcase.

Among Kuwaiti press allegations of Iranian involvement, AL-QABAS published a 12 April report that the hijacking was carried out on the orders of Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. In another development, the Kuwaiti Embassy in London denied Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani's claim that Kuwait rejected an Iranian offer to storm the hijacked plane at Mashhad Airport, KUNA noted.

Iran made no such suggestion and the Kuwaiti Government asked the Iranian authorities to deal with the situation as they deemed appropriate, an embassy press release said.

Lebanon

Syria has told the Islamic Jihad holding French hostages that "military measures" will be taken against the southern suburb of Beirut if they are not released soon, Syrian businessman 'Umran 'Adham disclosed in remarks cited by AFP. 'Adham, who has close ties with the Syrian leadership, stated that a senior Syrian military team has arrived in Beirut to supervise the operation.

Meanwhile, an anonymous caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad told a Western news agency in Beirut that two French hostages will be released shortly, the agency noted. In another development, gunmen shot and seriously wounded an escort of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in West Beirut, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

In East Beirut, Lebanese Forces (LF) commander Samir Ja'ja' responded to recent diplomatic moves on the Lebanese issue by affirming that "all solutions coming from beyond our borders will fail to cross contact lines." Speaking at an LF ceremony in remarks reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, Ja'ja' said the LF will resist "anyone who even thinks of offering Lebanon to Syria on a silver platter."

Addressing "those who expect good results from papers flying over our heads, carried in the portfolios of diplomats," he said the negotiating table will be in Lebanon, and the solution can only be "in the Lebanese language."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq announced two more missile strikes on Iran 14 April. The "Al-Husayn" missiles targeted Esfahan and Qom, according to military statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Iran's IRGC had fired two surface-to-surface missiles at "military centers" in Baghdad the evening of 13 April, IRNA reported, adding that this was in retaliation for earlier Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities.

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses acknowledged that a missile attack caused civilian casualties. On the effects of the 13 April missile attacks on Iran, Tehran radio said that three people were killed and a number wounded in one attack on Tehran, while IRNA noted that a second attack on the capital caused several other civilian casualties.

Iranian jets raided Iraqi military targets in the Sharhani and Al-'Amarah sectors 13 April, according to a communique cited by IRNA.

On the chemical weapons issue, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied Iraqi claims that Iran has used chemical weapons, saying that if Iran is "forced" to use them one day it will be brave enough to admit this, IRNA reported. Iran hopes its defenses are so strong that it will not be obliged to use chemical weapons, he asserted, but if Iran does use such weapons it will "not be responsible" for the consequences.

Iran

The number of votes cast in the first round of elections to the third Majlis was 16,988,799, a higher number than in previous Majlis elections, Interior Minister Mohtashemi disclosed at a news conference reported by Tehran radio. He added that the second round will be held on 13 May.

Security forces discovered and dismantled a "relatively strong" bomb in West Tehran, IRNA reported, noting that an official source blamed the Iraqi regime and its "spies" for the bomb attempt.

Israel

An IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem television rebutted Arab claims that a 70-year-old woman died after inhaling tear gas during a 12 April demonstration in Gaza, noting that a doctor at Shifa' hospital determined she died of "natural causes." According to Jerusalem radio, a military spokesman also denied a UNRWA official's allegations that IDF soldiers have sprayed Palestinian protesters with "poisonous" gas, causing 60 women in refugee camps to miscarry.

On the situation in the West Bank, Jerusalem television reported that "large" IDF forces entered Salfit 13 April, arrested 70 "suspects," and imposed a curfew on the town, which had declared itself "independent" and was being run by a joint Communist-Fatah committee.

Egypt "strongly condemned" Israel's deportation of eight Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, declaring that it "completely contradicts" the 1949 Geneva convention protecting civilians living under military occupation, MENA reported.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Four Soviet advisers were killed in Kabul 11 April when a bomb planted in their jeep exploded, AFP reported 14 April. An "unspecified" number of bystanders were also killed when the bomb went off at a shopping arcade. AFP also noted an explosion occured the same day on a train near Peshawar, Pakistan, killing two railway workers.

Commenting on the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo stressed that Pakistan will still not recognize the present Kabul regime, Islamabad radio reported. However, Junejo praised CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's "wisdom and farsightedness," and hoped that a new era will dawn in Soviet-Pakistani relations.

Sudan

The Constituent Assembly approved Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's political program calling for a national reconciliation government comprised of all Sudanese parties, except the Sudanese Communist Party, SUNA reported. The program also provides for a constitutional conference, which will revise institutions such as the Constituent Assembly and the State Council and define the relationship between religion and politics.

Under the new government, the September 1983 laws will be replaced by "genuine" Islamic laws, which will also take into account the religious, political, and citizenship rights of non-Muslim citizens.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah's Khalaf on Moscow Visit, Syria

JN131043 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Kuwait—Fatah Central Committee member Salah halaf, alias Abu Iyad, has announced that the Palestinian-Soviet talks in Moscow dealt with all aspects of the Palestine question, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the region, and the comprehensive and just solution as viewed by the Soviet Union and the Palestinian delegation.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD, Abu Iyad said the talks led to an agreement that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will adopt the Palestinian stand on the issue of Palestinian representation at an international conference during his summit meeting with U.S. President Reagan at the end of next month. He said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative has reached an impasse and there will be no benefit from his return to the region.

Khalaf said that 'Aafat's visit to Moscow took place at a very important stage in the history of Palestinian struggle especially after the uprising entered its 5th month, proving that the Palestinian people will not surrender and that the occupation will certainly end. He added the events in the uprising reflected on the talks and that the Soviets affirmed their full support for the Palestinian uprising because it regained confidence in the Palestinian people's ability to achieve freedom and to practice their right to national self-determination.

Abu Iyad also said Gorbachev affirmed to 'Arafat the USSR's adherence to an effective international conference and the PLO's representation in this conference in an independent delegation or within a unified Arab delegation. He also affirmed that national Palestinian rights should be the basis for any discussion of the Middle East issue. By national rights, the Soviet Union means, as explained during the talks, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

Khalaf added that the USSR also spoke about the security of regional countries, including Israel and the Palestinian state. He said: We view these talks as very important because no similar Soviet-Palestinian summit was held in 4 years.

Khalaf commented on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's statement following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shutlz as well as the four bases defined by Damascus, including participation in an international conference by an unified Arab delegation, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

He said: We believe it is a principled and good statement and it is in harmony with Fes summit resolutions and the Palestinian viewpoint. We appreciate President al-Asad's principled position. We also believe that since the uprising, Syria has been positively analyzing the situation and whenever the international conference or any talks on the Palestine question are mentioned, Syria insists the PLO must attend and represent the Palestinian people.

He added: We think this attitude is linked with the positive atmospheres which prevailed in the many Palestinian-Syrian meetings, including the meeting with Faruq al-Shar'. We also hope President al-Asad's statement will be a major factor for normalizing and improving relations.

PLO's Abu Iyad Views Palestinian Uprising

PM140901 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 5 Apr 88 p 4

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, by 'Ali 'Umar Jabir in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jabir] Since it began, the uprising has been and still is in the minds of those who advocate peace and is even having an impact internationally. We wanted to hear from a PLO official about the latest developments on the uprising on an international level, in the political world, and in international organizations.

[Khalaf] Naturally, in my opinion the uprising has reached a sensitive and feverish pitch. If we refer to the Israeli positions on the uprising when it started, they thought it was just a routine phenomenon which would last for only a while, meaning it would exceed previous uprisings by a week or two at the most.

When the uprising entered its 2d month it became apparent to the Israelis that it was no ordinary phenomenon; it was an entire people rising up under the slogan "a Palestinian settlement" and confronting the Israeli war machine with blood, bone, and spirit. [passage omitted]

That is the uprising. As regards the political aspect, it is enough that the uprising activated the United States, which had not spoken about the issue for 2 years. When Gorbachev and Reagan met, Reagan refused even to look at the Middle East issue or the Palestinian issue. Yet Shultz has been compelled to move.

However, the U.S. move in itself indicates the uprising has done its job, even within U.S. public opinion. I do not want to speak about Europe and its political stances.

However, I would like to add that an FRG delegation came to us, representing all the German parties. They did not previously recognize the PLO. They met us officially and announced their recognition of the PLO.

What do we want, politically? I would like to say the uprising demands Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and then the bringing in of UN emergency forces for the transitional period.

I am confident the uprising will achieve this political breakthrough. Let this transitional period last 6 months or 1 year—that is not important. However, what is important is for our people to achieve their first victory by the withdrawal of Israeli forces. [passage omitted]

[Jabir] What are the latest developments in the stand on the closure of the PLO office in the United States, after the United States submitted the matter to the court in New York?

[Khalaf] The court delivered a verdict supporting Congress' decision and it gave the PLO 20 days. In the meantime the UN Security Council convened and voted in favor of the continuance of the PLO mission; it condemned the U.S. action and opposed the U.S. decision. Israel gains greatly from it politically. All the European states voted in the PLO's favor, as did other states which recognize the PLO. This may be seen as sure recognition of the PLO by voting for the continuance of the mission and its role.

We will take countermeasures against the decision: First, we will not close the office and the staff there will not defer to U.S. wishes by closing it even if matters go so far as their imprisonment; second, some of the Palestinians working at the office have U.S. citizenship; one of them has submitted a petition to the U.S. Government on the grounds that the decision lies not with Congress but with the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch has made statements opposing the decision and the legislative branch has no authority to concern itself with this law.

The essential point is to put forward the case. Some 50 individuals joined in and gave their support for the case to be brought in their names—as individual Americans. They petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court against Congress' action in taking the decision. If we succeed—as the lawyers have told us we will—the decision may stand [sentence as published]. However, it is up to the courts and the law.

[Jabir] In Algeria, Yasir 'Arafat pointed to the Kingdom's role in backing the uprising, as an extension of its role in backing the PLO. What is the extent of this backing?

[Khalaf] To faithfully record the facts, and without hypocrisy, I would like to say the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has never stopped assisting the Palestinian resistance and the PLO in particular. When some countries did stop, after 1982, the Kingdom remained alone. Even when some of the states that back the PLO were not with it, the Kingdom did not cease to meet all its commitments to the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Speaking unofficially and from a position of responsibility, I know how much the Kingdom has given and is still giving to the Palestinian people, the PLO, and the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

'Atallah 'Atallah Comments on Shultz Plan

JN121308 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 Apr 88 p 16

[Interview with 'Atallah 'Atallah, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Za'im, "leader of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO," by an unidentified correspondent in Amman; published in the London-based AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI: What is the significance of Secretary of State Shultz' declaration, prior to his arrival in Amman, of the three big noes: no to the PLO, no to the Palestinian state, and no to return to the 1967 borders? Are these noes intended to torpedo his initiative before it is translated into practical measures? Are they a tactical maneuver or an essential equation in the U.S.-Israeli concept of a settlement?

Abu al-Za'im: The settlement must be viewed as a road that leads to conscious options which we as Arabs and Palestinians formulate. What Shultz says is not certain destiny and what Shamir says is not certain destiny. To say the State of Israel will be finished in 4 or 5 days is not certain destiny.

I ask: Are there serious intentions to establish peace? Of course there is a difference between peace and capitulation. There is a difference between Washington imposing a plan guarded by its fleets and putting forward a peace plan, for an imposed plan means subduing the will of the area's peoples and subjugating them by force. In such a situation the will of rejection will resist and confront the will to impose a settlement and there will be no peace.

Fortunately, what is being put forward is a peace initiative which I believe is serious and positive—although I do not believe it completely promotes the aspirations of the Palestinian people. I believe the initiative, whatever it may be, does not guarantee total peace. Any initiative that defines the solution on the map in its parts and its whole is not an initiative. It is a decision.

What is important in Shultz' initiative is that there are two problems: First, the various parties must go to the negotiating table under international sponsorship and at an international conference. That is a serious Arab demand, and we cannot reject it.

Second, the sides concerned must tackle the issue in its totality and negotiate on the issues put forward. Undoubtedly, making rough and provocative statements is an Israeli tactic intended to intimidate the Arab negotiator and to suggest to him from the outset that Tel

Aviv will not yield anything. Moreover, such statements embarrass Arab moderates and push them toward a more hardline stand, thus automatically aborting the peace initiative.

AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI: Does Shultz' statement, "no to the return to the 1967 borders" mean there will be Israeli withdrawal from certain points and continued Israeli presence—of a security and strategic nature—in others? Has the idea of withdrawal matured in Israeli policy?

Abu al-Za'im: Strategically, there must be a complete return to the 1967 border. However, one side or another has tactical needs which the interests of the negotiators require. Such partial considerations are possible. I will give you an example: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result of the existing situation there is no direct access between the city of Gaza and the Hebron area.

When a Palestinian entity is established comprising the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and this is inevitable, does one need to go by sea via Lebanon or travel via Cairo to get to Gaza. That is not possible. As a negotiating Palestinian party I will insist on a strip no less than 5 km wide connecting the West Bank and Gaza and I will demand sovereignty over that strip. AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI: How, in your view, can the Shultz initiative tackle the problem of Palestinian representation in light of Shultz' refusal to talk to the PLO? Is Washington seeking to revive the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation? Has not that formula been superseded by events?

Abu al-Za'im: Our Corrective Movement has never asked for an independent Palestinian delegation. We call for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. This does not infringe upon the rights of the PLO. We believe the UN secretary general should extend an invitation to the PLO when it invites the other parties. The Palestinian side in the joint delegation is the PLO and any Palestinian chosen by the PLO is a member of the delegation. [passage omitted]

We support an international conference to which all the parties concerned are invited, including the PLO. The PLO should be invited by the UN secretary general and participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Jordanian-Palestinian leadership will issue instructions to the joint delegation. I am sure this does not constitute an infringement upon Palestinian rights.

AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI: However, Shultz has closed the door in the face of discussing the possibilities of establishing a Palestinian state?

Abu al-Za'im: I believe Shultz said, "No to a Palestinian state that sees the light now." However, a Palestinian state is the destiny of the Palestinians themselves. As Jordanians and Palestinians we have agreed on this issue within the framework of the mechanism for joint coordination. We agreed on a state that unites in a confederation with Jordan. This is provided for by the 11 February 1985 agreement.

I am not demanding that state from Israel or the United States, for that is a Palestinian-Jordanian-Arab affair. Any sensible Palestinian realizes that the Palestinian state must be established, but in a union with Jordan. Thus we achieve a fusion between the West Bank and the East Bank and also between 2 million Palestinians in Jordan and 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and between the Palestinians in the diaspora. They will thus regain their identity and all the Palestinians will unite with all the Jordanians in one confederation. That objective is one of the most important tasks of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

I am not asking Israel to grant me independence; I am demanding the return of occupied Arab territory and the evacuation of occupation forces. If I were in Safad or Nazareth I would have asked Israel for an independent state, or autonomy, or a binational state.

As for the territory occupied in 1967 I do not give Israel that right at all and I do not allow it to discuss my destiny after the end of the occupation. It is an aggressor and it is required to withdraw. It is not anyone's guardian in the region. The Israeli role ends with its withdrawal. Then the Arab responsibility begins, a responsibility governed by the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and their will to react with each other and formulate a cohesive confederal situation. [passage omitted]

Commentary Says U.S. 'Main Antagonist'

JN122011 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1755 GMT 12 Apr 88

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "What Is Possible Is Acceptable by the Nation and the Option Is the Nation's Option"]

[Text] Brothers: The Soviet foreign minister might visit the region before his meeting with George Shultz [words indistinct] to define the two sides' stands on Shultz' U.S. proposals. The Moscow meeting between the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers will take place as scheduled. The Middle East situation will top the agenda of the meeting. The Arab foreign ministers agreed to convene the emergency Arab summit on the Palestinian people's uprising and on the situation in general during the 1st week of June in Algeria.

Jordan's Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i told the Arab ambassadors that Jordan has informed Shultz in an official document that it will not represent the Palestinian people in the international conference and that it will not negotiate on a settlement of the Palestinian question on behalf of the PLO. However, the prime minister

noted Jordan's readiness to attend an international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the concerned parties agree on this arrangement.

All this takes place after the very important visit to Moscow by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his meeting with the Soviet leader, Comrade Gorbachev, as well as after the two sides, the Palestinian and the Soviet, came up with a common stand, affirming the Palestinian constants, foremost of which being the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Therefore, the international situation, the pan-Arab situation, and the regional situation are all sharpening their arms. And the battle is at its peak.

We say and always repeat that the Palestinian stand based on the unity of the Arab stand is the possible option. Possibilities or the possible option is not given by the opponent. The possible option will be reached when the Arab side pools all its arms and potentials and when it prepares all circumstances to seize what is possible. The possible option is not given or donated by anybody or by any opponent.

As the brothers in Jordan know, the U.S. side is the main antagonist. If this antagonist believes that what is possible in settling the existing regional conflict is bilateral talks between Jordan and Israel, this does not necessarily mean it is correct, as proven by the Jordanian stand rejecting such a (?course).

If the U.S. antagonist thinks what is possible in settling the conflict lies in forming a Jordanian delegation covered by a Palestinian formality [shakliyah filastiniyah], this also does not necessarily mean it is correct. If the U.S. antagonist believes that the ceiling of its concessions is the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, this should not be accepted.

The basis and the essence are the Arab interests, the Palestinian interests, and the Jordanian interests—the interests of the nation as a whole. If the nation sees that the nation's option or the possible option of the nation lies through forming a joint Arab delegation to the international conference on settling the Middle East conflict and through uniting the political Arab stand in confronting the U.S.-Zionist antagonist, no party should depart from this possible option even if the antagonist believes that what is possible is something else. What is possible is acceptable by the nation and the option is the nation's option.

No Arab party can deny that unity is the path to achieve victory and fragmentation is the path to deal with each party separately and consequently to defeat it and to defeat the Arab stand as a whole, God forbid. In political Arab life, there are dozens of examples of the soundness of this idea.

We say this while standing on the threshold of an Arab summit that first aims at uniting the Arab stand. Will we stop the calls departing from the unity of this stand? The conflict is the conflict of the Arabs and their vanguards, the Palestinians, against the U.S.-Zionist antagonist. The solution lies in the hands of the Arabs and their vanguards, the Palestinians. The option is the option of the Arabs, the option of the Arab stand, and the option of the joint Arab delegation.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Afghanistan, Pakistan Sign Geneva Accord

LD141408 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Agreements concerning the political solution to the Afghanistan situation were signed this afternoon in Geneva. Details of this will be broadcast later.

Soviets, U.S. Guarantors

AU141143 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Louis Nevin report]

[Text] Geneva, April 14 (AFP)—Pakistan and Afghanistan formally signed a U.S. and Soviet-guaranteed accord here Thursday that will lead to a pull-out of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan within a maximum of nine months from May 15.

The long-awaited accord, reached after six years of tough bargaining, was signed by Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Soviet Union agreed to withdraw half of its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan by August 15. The phased pull-out is to be completed within nine months from May 15.

The Geneva accord is not a peace treaty, diplomats here stressed.

It has been rejected by the Afghan rebels and both the United States and the Soviet Union are to continue providing arms to their respective sides in the nine-year conflict that has left well over one million dead, including an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 Soviet troops.

The four signatories of the accord also agreed that to achieve the aim of a political settlement there will be as from May 15 "no interference and intervention in any form" in the affairs of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the main contracting parties.

A separate instrument, signed only by Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze, states that the United States and the Soviet Union "undertake to invariably refrain from any form of interference" in Afghan and Pakistani affairs.

The superpowers also "urge all states to act likewise" and express support for Islamabad and Kabul's decision to conclude "a negotiated political settlement designed to normalize relations and promote good-neighborliness" between the two nations.

Under the terms of a document signed only by Pakistan and Afghanistan, but guaranteed by Washington and Moscow, the two countries vowed to respect each others' "sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity, security and nonalignment."

They pledged to "refrain from the threat or use of force ... so as not to violate the boundaries of each other, disrupt the political, social or economic order of the other party or to overthow or change the political system of the other."

Islamabad and Kabul committed themselves to prevent their territory being used for the "training, equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries from whatever origin" and to "deny facilities ... for the transit of such mercenaries."

Another instrument signed only by Afghanistan and Pakistan provides for the orderly return to their homeland of the estimated three million Afghan refugees currently in Pakistan.

Kabul pledged to take steps to ensure the refugees' "return in freedom," their free choice of domicile, their right to work and adequate living conditions, their freedom of religion and their "right to participate on an equal basis in the civic affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, Pakistan agreed to provide "within its possibilities" all necessary assistance to the repatriation process.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will also help the repatriation of refugees from Pakistan.

The accord makes no mention however of the estimated two million Afghan refugees in Iran.

It states that for a period of 18 months starting on May 15, joint commissions will be set up to organize and supervize the repatriation process. The commissions will determine frontier crossing points and establish necessary transit points.

On the issue of violations of the Geneva accord, the four parties agreed that "prompt and satisfactory" solutions will be worked out by Afghan and Pakistani representatives, who will meet whenever required.

The meetings will be attended by a representative of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A senior U.N. military officer will be stationed in the area as head of two headquarters units, one in Kabul and the other in Islamabad.

Each unit will comprise five officers and civilian staff. The units will form inspection teams that will check on the ground any violations of the accord. If necessary, up to 40 additional U.N. officers will be deployed.

The U.N. personnel will be stationed in the area within 20 days before May 15 and the cost of the U.N operations will be borne by Afghanistan and Pakistan.

'Main Points' Disclosed

AU141227 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva, April 14 (AFP)—Here are the main points of the accord for an Afghan settlement formally signed here Thursday by Pakistan and Afghanistan, and guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union:

1. Bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, in particular non-interference and non-intervention.

The two parties undertake:

—To respect the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, national unity, security and nonalignment of the other.

—To refrain from threats or use of force in any form whatsoever so as not to violate the boundaries of each other, to disrupt the political, social or economic order of the other.

—To ensure that its territory is not used in any manner which would violate the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the other.

—To refrain from armed intervention, subversion, military occupation.

—To prevent within its territory the training, equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries of whatever origin for the purpose of hostile activities against the other.

—To abstain from any defamatory campaign or hostile propaganda.

2. Bilateral Afghan-Pakistani accord on the voluntary return of Afghan refugees:

—All refugees shall be allowed to return in freedom to their homeland.

—All returnees shall enjoy the free choice of domicile and freedom of movement.

—All returnees shall enjoy the right to work and to adequate living conditions.

—All returnees shall enjoy the right to participate on an equal basis to the civic affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

—All returnees shall enjoy the same rights and privileges, including freedom of religion, and have the same obligations as any other citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan.

—Afghanistan undertakes to provide within its possibilities all necessary assistance to the process of repatriation.

—Pakistan shall facilitate the orderly and peaceful return of all Afghan refugees staying within its territory.

—Joint commissions will be set up to organize and supervize the repatriation process.

—The commissions shall determine frontier crossing points and establish necessary transit centers.

—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees shall provide assistance in the process of repatriation.

3. The Soviet Union and the United States of America undertake:

—To refrain from any form of interference and intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to respect the committments contained int the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Principles of Mutual Relations, in particular non-interference and non-intervention.

—Urge all states to act likewise

4. The four parties state that:

—In accordance with the timeframe agreed upon between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Afghanistan, there will be a phased withdrawal of the foreign troops which will start on the date of entry into force mentioned above (May 15, 1988).

—One half of the (Soviet) troops will be withdrawn by August 15, 1988 and the withdrawal of all troops will be completed within nine months.

—There will be no interference and intervention in any form in the affairs of the parties (Afghanistan and Pakistan).

Afghan Resistance Sympathizers Demonstrate

AU141054 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva, April 14 (AFP)—About 100 people, mainly Afghans sympathetic to the Afghan resistance, demonstrated here Thursday outside the United Nations where the Afghan peace agreement was due to be signed within hours.

The protesters complained that the Geneva accord—drawn up by Pakistani and Afghan Government negotiators, without rebel represention, and providing for a Soviet troop withdrawal—did not involve the Afghans.

They said they were acting in response to an appeal from the Afghan rebel Islamic alliance of mujahidin, and were calling for the right of peoples to govern themselves.

Algeria

Reportage on Hijacking Situation 13-14 Apr

Kuwaitis, Khdiri Continue Talks

LD131441 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Attention is still focused on Houari Boumedienne International Airport where the first round of talks between El-Hadi Khdiri, the interior minister, and Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, began this afternoon. Mr al-'Usaymi arrived in Algiers late this morning to participate in the negotiations taking place between the Algerian authorities and the hijackers.

The reaction of the Kuwaiti Government, represented by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, is not known yet. The first round of talks between the Kuwaiti Government delegation and the Algerian authorities has just ended and we still do not know Kuwait's reaction to the demands which El-Hadi Khdiri conveyed to the Kuwaiti delegation after his talks with the hijackers this morning. The hijackers' demands, as El-Hadi Khdiri indicated to the national and international press, remain the release of the 17 prisoners held in Kuwait. Thus, the hijackers are still making the same demand and, as I said, we do not know yet the reply of the Kuwaiti authorities to these demands.

Mr El-Hadi Khdiri also declared this morning that he will only return to the plane when he is able to convey the reaction of the Kuwaiti authorities to the hijackers' demands. Therefore, we are waiting for Khdiri's return to the Boeing 747 and his returns will mean that there is a Kuwaiti reply, whatever the reply, to the hijackers' demands.

Nothing else to add except that three vehicles moved toward the hijacked Boeing about 15 minutes ago. The vehicles approached the aircraft steps and we do not know if radio contacts took place between these vehicles and the hijackers. In any case, we followed their movement from about 700 meters without knowing what was really going on. After 10 or 15 minutes the vehicles returned to the VIP lounge where the Kuwaiti and Algerian delegations are at the moment.

Official Enters Plane

LD131650 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The hijacked Boeing saga. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The news to report since the 1600 newscast [1500 GMT] is that a member of the Algerian delegation went into the Boeing 747 for almost 5 minutes. This explains why the steps were moved to the front wing of the Boeing. We have also observed four minibuses moving around the aircraft, which could be used—one supposes—to pick up the 30 or so hostages, but nothing is definite. The minibuses went round the aircraft quickly and then went away. The talks between Interior Minister Khdiri and the Kuwaiti foreign minister are continuing in the VIP lounge. [passage omitted]

Official Leaves Plane

LD131740 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti aircraft diverted from Larnaca Airport has been parked since the early hours of today at Houari Boumedienne International Airport. Our colleague, Dakkar, is there to report on any new events:

[Dakkar] Nothing has occurred since 1620 when one member of the Algerian delegation came out of the aircraft after having spent about 25 minutes inside the aircraft. He returned to join the meeting of the Algerian and the Kuwaiti delegations which has been going on since noon today. The meeting is being held in total secrecy and there is no news about the content of this meeting.

At 1752 we saw the front door of the plane opened in order to throw out sacks of rubbish.

Also, we have learned from an unofficial source—private sources—that each side is still sticking to its stand, both the Kuwaiti side and the hijackers. The hijackers affirmed this morning when they met Interior Minister El-Hadi Khdiri that they insist on their demand—the release of 17 persons detained in Kuwait. I repeat that this is according to unofficial sources and private sources and it has not yet been confirmed. Despite the long time and the hot weather, tiredness has not affected the national and foreign press delegations whose cameras and eyes are constantly watching the plane.

Solution 'Imminent'

LD132012 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1947 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] With regard to the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft which is sitting on the tarmac of Houari Boumedienne International Airport, I have the journalist Mohamed Chelouche on the line.

Indeed, we are called by our radio correspondent at the airport. Over to you, Abdelmoumene Dekkar.

[Dekkar] Mohamed, after a long wait, it seems that a peaceful solution of the hijacking is very imminent following a contact between two Algerian negotiators and the hijackers which lasted 35 minutes, from 1930 to 2005. As a result, specific progress has been made and this might lead to a peaceful end to the hijack in the next

few hours. At any rate this is what was affirmed to us by well-informed sources close to the talks and the negotiations underway between the Kuwaitis and the hijackers with Algerian mediation.

In the meantime, attention is still focused on the plane in the hope of a happy end to the hijack. [passage omitted]

'Happy End' Foreseen

LD132336 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The latest developments in the issue of the diverted Kuwaiti plane which is standing on the tarmac of Houari Boumedienne International Airport are being reviewed by the team of radio reporters at the airport.

Khadijah says that the new development was the adjournment of the Algerian-Kuwaiti talks at about midnight. They will be resumed on Thursday morning. A new round of talks began directly after the return of the two Algerian negotiators from the plane where they met with those responsible for the airplane's diversion.

The two Algerian negotiators, according to a well informed source, carried with them the glad news of the approaching peaceful, and happy end to the issue of the hijacked plane.

This is all that is new on the issue. We will keep you informed of any new developments.

Plane Moved 14 Apr

LD140832 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] We begin with what is happening now concerning the diverted Kuwaiti airliner. Our reporter Abdelkader Alaoui reports from Houari Boumedienne International Airport.

[Announcer] Hello, have you got new developments concerning the situation?

[Reporter] Twenty-five minutes ago the diverted Kuwaiti airliner moved from its original place 500 metres from the airport VIP lounge to stop beside the internal flights zone in order to enable the aircraft carrying Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current OAU Chairman, to land safely.

So far I have no information about any resumption of negotiations with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner. I also do not know whether a contact took place this morning between the Algerian and Kuwaiti negotiating teams. I believe that new elements concerning the development of this question cannot come before noon today [1100 GMT].

I cannot see any trace of the Kuwaiti delegation or the Algerian delegation, except the presence of the Kuwaiti special airplane that brought the Kuwaiti delegation to Algiers yesterday.

Resumption of Talks Awaited

LD140920 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The Kuwait Airways plane has been moved to allow Mr Kaunda's plane to maneuver on the runway. The hijackers of the Kuwaiti 747 agreed to have the plane moved. But for more details live from Houari Boumediene airport here is Farid Saldi.

[Saldi] We are are awaiting the resumption of the talks at any moment here at Houari Boumedienne Airport. Our interior minister is here, as is the head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Mr Sa'ud al-'Usaymi. Mr El Hadi Khdiri, with whom we have spoken, was unable to confirm the exact time when the talks will resume. For the moment the 747 is in the maintenance area and has been since precisely 0828. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Meets Al-'Usaymi

LD141008 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi at Houari Boumedienne International Airport this morning. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister El Hadi Khdiri.

Hostage's 'Verbal Message'

LD141422 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The latest development in the affair of the Hijacked Kuwaiti airliner on the ground at Houari Boumedienne International Airport, is that an agreement in principle has been reached to allow an Algerian janitorial staff to board the plane to clean it. This is what we have learned from authorized Algerian sources.

We have also learned that the hijackers have allowed one of the hostages to send a verbal message to the control tower. The hostage is (Zayid Ahmad) and his message says:

Peace be upon you: I send my greetings to my family. I am in good health. They are asking the Kuwaiti Government to release 17 prisoners; otherwise, they will kill us all. end of message. [passage omitted]

Negotiations 'Suspended'

LD141505 Algiers APS in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, 14 Apr (APS)—The negotiations between the Kuwaiti delegation, headed by minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad al-'Usaymi, and the hijackers of the Kuwaiti Airways plane—with Algerian mediation—were suspended this morning.

Regarding the negotiations, a source close to the Algerian mediators has indicated that the two delegations are still sticking to their initial positions, namely the hijackers' demand for the release of the 17 members of the Islamic Jihad group held prisoner in Kuwait and the Kuwaitis' refusal to meet this demand.

Cleaners, Doctor Board Plane

LD141543 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The Kuwait Airways 747 saga. Over now to our reporter, Farida Beccouche:

Contacts between the Algerian negotiators and the commando unit are continuing, contacts which have already had a positive result, at least as regards sanitation, because the commando group, after having been contacted several times this morning, have allowed teams of cleaners to clean the plane and have allowed a doctor to go on board. This is the first time since the hijacking of the Kuwait plane 10 days ago that teams have gone on board to clean it. This is all there is to report for the time being.

2 Hostages Said Released

NC141625 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, April 14 (AFP)—Hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner freed two of their hostages, officials here said Thursday.

The appeal move came as negotiations resumed here to release the hostages held aboard the 747 by several gunmen demanding the release in Kuwait of 17 Islamic militants.

'Intense Activity' at Airport

LD141633 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Dispatch From the airport]

[Excerpts] As we were expecting for the past few minutes, the aircraft returned to the initial place where it landed on Wednesday, about 5 minutes ago. The aircraft had moved to the eastern part of the airport, to an area near the wing of domestic flights, at 0830 today.

There is intense activity inside Houari Boumedienne International Airport where journalists are directing their cameras toward the plane. A few moments ago three vehicles, apparently carrying Algerian officials, moved towards the aircraft. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the hijackers have also asked for a generator to enable them to operate the air-conditioning system aboard the plane.

As I have already said, air traffic is very normal here at the airport, international and domestic flights are running on schedule. [passage omitted]

Doctor Sees Passengers

LD141722 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Things seem to be going better at Houari Boumedienne Airport. The Algerian doctor whom the hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 allowed on board the plane was able to ascertain that the passengers were in good health. [passage omitted]

Mughaniyah Said 'Commander'

JN141354 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Larnaca—It has been reiterated that the commander of the hijacking operation of the Kuwaiti airliner is called Nadim Mughaniyah. Informed sources said Mughaniyah has played a basic role from behind the scene in previous operations.

Chad

Libyan Planes 'Violate' Airspace 13 Apr

AB140617 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Libyan planes continue to violate our airspace. Yesterday at 0000 hours (?32) planes overflew (?Gouro); five others overflew Ounianga over a period of (?3) minutes; 15 others overflew Ouadi Doum and others overflew Fada.

Lake Chad Commission Issues Communique

AB122203 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the first conference of environment ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission [CBLT] member countries ended this morning.

The closing ceremony which took place at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was chaired by Naimbaye M'Bailao Lossemian, minister of tourism and environment, in the presence of Elizabeth Tanko, Cameroonian secretary of state for planning and national development; Hassan

Issaka, secretary general of the Niger Ministry of Agriculture and Environment; Dr Umar Kawi, federal director of the Water Resources Department of Nigeria; and Abderrahmane Salah, minister of livestock and rural water supply [title as heard]. [passage omitted]

The end of this first conference was marked by a final communique and a speech. The final communique was read by Mrs Tanko, Cameroonian secretary of state for planning and national development:

[Begin recording] At this meeting, the ministers examined the general situation in the Lake Chad Basin and noted that drought and the irrational exploitation of the natural resources of the basin had led to the reduction of water resources of the basin thus accelerating desert encroachment and general environmental degradation.

The ministers agreed on the urgent need to redress this critical situation and approved a series of actions, particularly: (?they drew up a) development plan that will lead to a pilot plan and an action program for the rational exploitation of the natural resources of the basin [words indistinct]; the launching of an international awareness campaign for the protection of Lake Chad. In addition, the ministers adopted a resolution on the request for aid from the Italian Government to conduct research on the transfer of water from the Zaire River Basin to the Lake Chad Basin.

At the end of their meeting, the ministers charged the minister of tourism and environment of the Republic of Chad to express their support to His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, head of state, and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, in his struggle for the restoration of peace and socioeconomic development in the country.

They also expressed their sincere thanks to the president, the government, and people of Chad for the warm welcome and African hospitality that they received. They also expressed thanks for all the facilities they were provided for the success of the meeting. The next meeting of the CBLT ministers of environment will be held in Ndjamena in the first fortnight of November 1988.

Signed in Ndjamena on 12 April 1988 in French and English, as proved by the two texts. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak To Begin 2-Day Visit to Jordan 14 Apr

NC131922 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1918 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will begin a 2-day visit to Jordan tomorrow. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, within the framework of constant consultations and coordination between the two leaders, to give an impetus to peace efforts in the region.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said today that President Mubarak's visit to Jordan also comes within the framework of current efforts in the region to find a solution to the Middle East problem, particularly in light of the escalating Palestinian uprising.

Mubarak Assures Kuwait's Al-Sabah of Support

NC141000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has declared that Egypt supports Kuwait's stand on the difficult situation resulting from the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane. President Mubarak expressed his support this morning in a telephone conversation with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, during which they exchanged views on this issue.

This was reported by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif after an expanded meeting chaired by President Mubarak this morning.

Hijacking Detracts From Palestinian Uprising

JN121814 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Mercenary Operation and Suspicious Timing"]

[Text] With taut nerves, Arab citizens followed the dramatic developments in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, the airports where it landed, and the reactions to the incident, which were sufficiently strong that Lebanon closed Beirut Airport so the plane would not land there. Syria also rejected the plane captain's request to land in Syria, even after he had threatened to ditch in the sea.

Undoubtedly, despite the declared demand of the hijackers for the release from Kuwaiti prisons of their civilian colleagues who have been charged with involvement in explosions at the U.S. and French Embassies and the airport, the operation had negative implications for the honorable and bright picture of legitimate struggle drawn by the heroes of the stone revolution in the occupied territories. It gave the Zionist media a golden opportunity to repeat the cliches that label Arabs as terrorists, using reports that the hijackers were speaking Arabic.

The operation also helped provide a "suspicious" cover for the criminal acts perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authority in the occupied territories. These acts begin with burying Palestinians alive, but do not end with demolishing homes over the heads of their innocent owners.

The hijacking of the plane threw dark clouds over a splendid Arab achievement, in terms of struggle, through which the Arabs have won the respect of the enemy before the friend. The achievement actually helped in

changing the image of the Arab struggler in the eyes of world public opinion. Everyone appeared convinced of the need to end the Israeli occupation and exchange land for peace.

This alone is reason enough for us to condemn this suspicious act perpetrated by mercenary adolescents who do not care for the higher Arab interest and who want to move history backward. However, we are confident that the real flow of Arab struggle, produced by the bitter reality of Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation, will eventually emerge victorious and make everybody deal with fixed facts, so that stability and a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved in the region.

Israel Said Planning To Hit Saudi Missiles

PM140805 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Apr 88 pp 1,4

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Serious Reports Reveal: Israel Preparing to Hit Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] A secret report from the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv sent to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has revealed that there are military plans supervised by the Israeli chief of staff to launch a direct strike against Saudi territory in order to eliminate the missiles Saudi Arabia recently obtained from China. The report says that the plan has already been endorsed and the Air Force elements required for it have been allocated.

The Israeli Air Force held three successive meetings with senior Israeli officers with a view to coordinating and preparing fully for eliminating these missiles. The report does not specify the type of planes that will be used. It is likely that in its air route Israel will follow the Red Sea.

The report adds that orders have been issued to Israeli military leaders to be on full alert on all military lines, especially in Lebanon. The report referred also to a preliminary meeting held between Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and some Israeli leaders, during which he briefed them on information to the effect that the Arab states are currently preparing to launch military operations against Israel—for which reason preparations must be made to foil the Arab plans.

Furthermore, Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a reply to President Mubarak's verbal message threatening to abrogate the Camp David accords should Israel hit the Saudi missiles. Shamir expressed his objection to the strong Egyptian language used in Mubarak's message, considering that such language would not build bridges of trust between Israel and the Arab states. Shamir emphasized that he has informed the U.S. Administration of the need to persuade Saudi Arabia to remove these missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads. He said: We have information that these missiles are primarily intended to threaten our security borders.

At another level, the Saudi missiles crisis was high on the agenda during the talks held in Washington between Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. During his current tour of the region Shultz is expected to discuss the dimensions of the crisis with officials from various states.

During the talks Shultz conveyed to Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah Israel's protest at recent Egyptian military exercises in the Sinai and the Egyptian forces' penetration of Border Area G, which separates Egyptian and Palestinian territory.

Iranian Attempts To 'Infiltrate' Foiled

PM040937 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
28 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fresh Iranian Attempts To Infiltrate Egypt Foiled"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT office—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed security sources in Cairo that the security organs have recently foiled attempts by the Iranian intelligence services to infiltrate Egypt by recruiting members of extremist organizations to spread the principles and ideas of the Iranian revolution and to create a climate of opinion supportive of the Iranian position against Iraq.

The sources confirmed that some attempts were made to send some Iranians working in the Iranian intelligence department for exporting the Iranian revolution to facilitate the task of communication with extremist organizations and their members and to provide them with information and ideas to circulate.

At the same time, the Egyptian security organs rejected a request by some Egyptian opposition parties to extend invitations to a number of Iranians to visit Egypt in response to the past visit by Egyptian opposition party leaders to Tehran.

In a statement to Parliament last week concerning justifications for prolonging the emergency law, Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr pointed to continuing international terrorist plans to infiltrate Egypt and the arrest of some organizations accused of maintaining contacts with elements from foreign states, especially the organ for exporting the Iranian revolution.

AL-WAFD on Israeli Infiltration Claims

JN052020 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
4 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Israel has asked for a meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli joint military liaison committee to discuss and assess security arrangements on the borders between the two countries to confront

some infiltration operations from both sides. The committee was formed in accordance with the provisions of the Camp David accords, which were signed between the two countries.

Diplomatic sources say Israel recently sent a memorandum to the MFO informing them that Egypt had committed some violations following the fedayeen operation in the Negev.

Israel also claimed that there are active centers for Palestinians who are hostile to Israel in Rafah and Al-'Arish, and that these centers plan and implement infiltration operations by some of their members into Israel to deliver instructions to the leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

Opposition Unites Against Emergency Law

PM140935 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Apr 88 p 2

[Ahmad al-Kinani report: "National Front Comprising Parties and Unions Formed To Confront Emergency Law"]

[Excerpts] Opposition leaders have announced that they have agreed to form a national front comprising all parties, political forces, and unions, and that this falls within the framework of confronting the government's extension of the emergency law. Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri has confirmed that two secretariats have been formed.

The first is within the People's Assembly to coordinate among representatives, and the second is for all parties, as well as the representatives of professional unions, in addition to academic staff clubs at Egyptian universities. He added: We urgently need to form this front in order to carry out our duty.

This was contained in his reply to a question raised during an international press conference held last Wednesday morning and attended by opposition leaders to explain the measures agreed upon to confront the emergency law. [passage omitted]

Liberal Party Secretary Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi proposed that the current alliance, which includes the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood, should be expanded to include the Al-Wafd Party and Al-Ummah Party as well, in addition to anyone else wishing to join, namely professional and labor unions. He emphasized that this proposal is being studied, since it is the only solution for confronting the oppressive dictatorship.

NPUG representative Lutfi Wakid emphasized that he welcomes front action in order to reach an agreement regarding the absence of democracy and the enforcement of the emergency law.

Al-Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din said that the opposition parties are coordinating among themselves both inside and outside the Assembly regarding important and major issues. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the opposition idea of withdrawing from the People's Assembly, Ibrahim Shukri said: The opposition representatives in the People's Assembly have played their role in full. They have explained the dangers of continuing to work under the emergency law. [passage omitted]

Counselor Al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi [Muslim Brotherhood deputy] warned that there is a strong campaign aimed at distorting the opposition case and ridiculing its actions. He said that the opposition's task in any country in the world is to expose the government's errors, as well as its defects and corruption, in order to correct its course. Nowhere in the world has an opposition ever hampered a decision made by the majority. In all countries of the world the majority is the proponent of decision making. And if the opposition managed to impose a decision, it would then become a majority and a government. But, before that its task is to tell the truth firmly, with both courage and determination.

Regarding the emergency law, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said that it is merely an excuse employed by people eager to persuade the president of the Republic to rule like Al-Sadat or 'Abd al-Nasir. But we warn the president about that. We will confront this method of rule whatever the outcome. We will resist with every means of resistance until a sound democracy is restored to Egypt and until Egypt is ruled by a majority elected freely by the people. President Mubarak and those around him must know that the method of rule they are now pursuing is a dictatorial method under which Egypt must not live at this stage.

The Liberal Party leader added: We hope to correct the situation and we shall resist with every force.

In the same direction Lutfi Wakid said: Extending the emergency law in such a manner and at this particular time proves the government's failure: It claims to be applying the emergency law to prevent terrorism and extremism, which proves its failure to determine the cause of such extremism. The people must not bear the consequences of this. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the possibility of calling for general civil disobedience Fu'ad Siraj al-Din said: It is very easy to call for boycotting authority and refusing to pay taxes, but before we can call for civil disobedience we must explore the extent of popular response to such a decision. We do not want media publicity. It is easy to propose pompous things, but we cannot achieve them now, so to do so would have a negative impact on the democratic process itself.

Al-Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi stressed that the current state of affairs can no longer be ignored and that effective measures must be taken. He affirmed that he has demanded an opposition leaders sit-in to protest against the government. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Arab Ties, Support for IRA

LD131403 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Report by Trevor MacDonald on the "Channel 4 News" program—intercepted in progress; all Al-Qadhdhafi statements in English and as heard]

[Excerpt] [MacDonald, over video of ceremonial demolition of Libyan border post] With one simple gesture Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had struck what he believes to be a decisive blow for the cause of Arab unity. The two Tunisian ministers who attended the demolition ceremony found its significance much more prosaic. Tunisia needs to be able to send more workers into Libya, a richer country with a less skilled work force. But it has also told the Tunisians that their own idiosyncratic neighbor has embarked on a policy of reconciliation.

The day after he went to the Tunisian border, I met Col al-Qadhdhafi at a tent on the grounds of his house in Tripoli. He told me that the borders between Arab countries had been drawn by Africa's colonial masters, but that in independence those divisions should cease; an Arab land should be one again.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Arab land is one for all Arabs. Colonization made these borders to divide our one land. Now we are independent; we have to get rid of this fix of the colonization. What I...It is what I did yesterday.

[MacDonald] What about breaking down other borders? Are you hoping that you will break down borders with other Arab countries?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We will try....[laughing] We will try.

[MacDonald] It's on the subject of the Middle East that Col al-Qadhdhafi is most forthright. He said the Palestinians will be freed of Israeli occupation, not by diplomacy, but by force because, he argues, Israel is supported by the powers of imperialism.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Imperialism are behind them. It is is not easy for all these aggressive parties to leave Palestine for some people. It is not easy, unless by force.

[MacDonald] But what about the possibility of a diplomatic solution? The Americans, for example. The American secretary of state, George Shultz, is going round trying to get a diplomatic solution. Don't you have any regard for that kind of possibility at all?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, no. We don't recognize any American role because America is not a neutral country. America is in the side...pro-Israelis completely and America in this case is our enemy.

[MacDonald] What about your support for the IRA—the Irish Republican Army?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We believe the cause of Ireland is a just cause, and we support this just cause because we believe Ireland is Ireland and Britain is Britain, and the existence of Britain in the north of Ireland is sense of colonization. And this...we will fight to get rid of this colonization, which is just fight and we support it.

[MacDonald] But does that mean, leader Al-Qadhdhafi, does that mean supporting people who place bombs and who kill and maim innocent people?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are not responsible about this...means. We support the cause.

[MacDonald] You don't give them weapons and money?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We support the cause because it is just one, but we are not responsible and involved in any act that is particularly that they do. It is their responsibility.

[MacDonald] Col al-Qadhdhafi believes that better relations with the United States are possible, but not under President Reagan, who he describes as foolish. I asked him when he expected Libya's relations with America to improve.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Not now. I expect it after Reagan. Any new American president will not follow this foolish man, Reagan. He will be reasonable I think.

[MacDonald] What about relations with Britain? Do you think that there's a chance of improving Libya's relations with Britain?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, because Britain is like America, and Britain is following America. I don't think that Britain is an independent country during Thatcher's regime. We consider that Britain is a colony for America.

[MacDonald] This week Libyans mark the second anniversary of the American attempt to destroy Col al-Qadhdhafi's command center in Tripoli. The abortive bombing raid has made the Colonel's house Libya's most powerful propaganda weapon. All the foreigners visiting the country are taken to see what Col al-Qadhdhafi calls real evidence of the language of terrorism. Two years on, Col al-Qadhdhafi is no longer talking of one single Arab empire, economically powerful and militarily invincible, but he's beginning at least to repair his relations with his neighbors. Trevor MacDonald, ITN, Libya. [passage omitted]

Delegations Arrive for Terrorism Seminar

LD120547 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Delegations participating in the works of the international scientific seminar to clarify the "concept of terrorism" started arriving in Tripoli.

Amongst the delegations that arrived so far are the Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian and the Italians.

The seminar, organised by the democratic socialists of the Mediterranean region, will start on the 13th and finish on the 15th of this month.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Opening

LD132013 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution attended this evening the opening session of the international scientific seminar to define the concept of terrorism and its forms, called for by the permanent secretariat of the progressive socialist organisation for the Mediterranean sea basin region and being held in the city of Tripoli, under the title: "International Terrorism: The Motives and Dimensions—An Attempt To Find a Concept."

It is being organised to mark the 2d anniversary of the confrontation by the Libyan Arab people to the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression and to implement the recommendations of the first meeting of the university dons of the Mediterranean sea basin states.

Somali Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD110943 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of his statement to JANA, the Somali foreign affairs minister conveyed President Mohamed Siad Barre's greetings to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people. The Somali minister of foreign affairs said in the course of his statement:

I will take this opportunity to hold talks pertaining to the bolstering and developing of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD111510 Tripoli Domes'ic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met this morning with Brother Mohamed 'Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard], in the Republic of Somalia, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Release of Former Ministers 'Confirmed'

PM131509 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mauritanian Sources Confirm Release of Three Officials"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mauritanian sources have confirmed reports of the release of a number of detainees including three prominent individuals detained approximately 5 months ago on a charge of embezzling public funds and using state power for personal gain.

The Mauritanian sources informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that among those freed were former Finance Minister Muhamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Fisheries Minister Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallah, and Central Bank Governor Jank Bufarda [name as transliterated].

Moreover, they pointed out that the decision to release them has not been officially announced, but they denied some reports which spoke about the involvement of those freed in an attempt to overthrow the ruling regime in Mauritania.

Leader Receives USSR Ambassador 12 Apr

LD122317 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 0230 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] This morning, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN, received his excellency the Soviet ambassador to Nouakchott, Leonid Komogorov.

Sudan

Parliament Approves Political Program 12 Apr

JN131159 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (SUNA)—The Constituent Assembly yesterday passed a motion supporting the political program presented by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The vote was 229 in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention.

Addressing the assembly earlier, Al-Mahdi announced that all political forces have agreed to be represented in a national reconciliation government [hukumat wifaq watani] and to revise constitutional institutions. He said the national reconciliation government will be formed as soon as possible.

The prime minister affirmed that the September laws will be canceled and replaced by genuine Islamic laws. Religion's relationship with politics, he said, will be defined in the constitutional conference. Al-Mahdi described the national reconciliation as a great objective, which is why it has taken so much precious time to achieve. He added that the debate on reconciliation has revealed the strong and weak points in the democratic experiment. The prime minister praised the democratic opposition's speech, saying it showed clarity of vision and objective.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in his speech before the Constituent Assembly that the exigencies of peaceful coexistence in Sudan and the protection of democracy make it incumbent on the Sudanese parties to show a large degree of patience and consciousness.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that the national reconciliation government will face the challenges of convening the national constitutional conference, the development of the national economy, the removal of the effects of the May regime, the pursuance of a nonaligned foreign policy, the assertion of the national policy line, and the refugee problems.

Al-Mahdi said Sudan will strive to enhance its capabilities in repelling aggression without abandoning the efforts toward a peaceful solution. He also affirmed that Sundan is determined to maintain goodneighborly relations, especially with countries with which we have tense relations, such as Ethiopia.

Al-Mahdi will submit his resignation to the State Council after agreement on the detailed programs of the national reconciliation government. This will be followed by a revision of constitutional institutions such as the Constituent Assembly, the State Council, and regional governors.

Further on Assembly Vote

JN131211 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April 13 (SUNA)—The Sudanese parliament yesterday overwhelmingly voted for the formation of a "national reconciliation government" which will include all Sudanese parties in the assembly except the tiny but powerful Sudanese Communist Party.

MPs of the Ummah, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the Islamic National Front (INF), the Sudanese National Party and the southern Sudan parties have voted for the formation of the national reconciliation government.

The vote was 229 in favour, three (communists) against and one abstaining. The MPs attending the voting were 233. The total number of the parliament members is two hundred sixty four.

The voting was on the modified programme of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The said programme, presented 15 of last month and modified in yesterday's parliamentary session, calls for the formation of a "reconciliatory national government", revision of the constitutional bodies in the country, and the formation of a national government, as soon as possible". [quotation marks as received]

It also said the controversial Sept. 1983 laws "known as shari'a Islamic law" would be abolished and be replaced by genuine Islamic laws. However "legislative matters would be agreed upon in the programmes to be put forward by the government of national reconciliation. [no closing quote as received]

In parliament yesterday Al-Mahdi said relationship between religion and politics would be considered by the constitutional conference.

The speaker for the INF, which until yesterday's voting was excluded from both coalition government, 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has stressed the importance of yesterday's session "in the history of democratic experience in the country".

Commenting on the statment by Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Taha pointed out that the national reconciliation government was the first step towards the overcoming of the political crisis facing the country."

The democratic opposition (the Sudanese Communist Party) in the parliament has issued a statement [word indistinct] the formation of the national reconciliation government. [passage indistinct]

Al-Mahdi on Consultations

JN131120 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (SUNA)—In his speech to the Constituent Assembly in Khartoum yesterday, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared that the consultations held with political figures in the past days have confirmed everyone's desire to sidestep the present composition of the government and tackle the pressing national issues.

Al-Mahdi said that the statement he delivered in the Constituent Assembly in mid-March and the additions and amendments added to it have produced something new which can serve as a basis for government with the decision made later [words indistinct] and is signed by the sides that support it.

Al-Mahdi said that consultations have resulted in agreement to postpone the issues that involve religion and politics such as constitutional issues connected with the constitutional conference. As for legislative and legal matters he said the tendency was to abolish the September laws and draw up an alternative based on Islamic shari'a. He said the details of such a commitment and the measures to consolidate it will be included in the political programs that will be discussed.

Referring to the issue of Islamic shari'a Al-Mahdi said the Islamic commitment is historic and democratic, and that application requires reconciling the rights of the Muslim majority with the religious, political, and citizenship rights of other citizens. He noted that a number of documents have been drawn up to define these features.

Al-Mahdi asserted that the discussions that have taken place on his statement, regardless of the disparagement, have helped to diagnose the political malaises and consequently have enabled us to find the decisive remedies.

Party Support Noted

JN131112 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (SUNA)—Spokesman for the various parliamentary blocs have expressed their support for the agreement reached by the Al-Ummah party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Islamic National Front, the southern parties, and the Sudanese National Party.

Parliament member Joseph Okilo talked for the African bloc parties, affirming that the direct dialogue among all the political parties has led to this agreement. He expressed hope that understanding will continue to draw up the program in the same spirit.

Amin Bashir from the Sudanese National Party, the collective leadership, said that this agreement is the best gift to the Sudanese people on the third anniversary of their uprising. He also praised the collective national dialogue as a way to accord.

Parliament member Aldu Agu Daynaq [name as received] stressed the need for the agreement to be a prelude to achieving peace in the country and abrogating the September laws. He also stressed that he is not against Islam, but is against its suspect implementations.

Tunisia

French Paper Interviews President Ben Ali

PM081010 Paris LE FIGARO in French 5 Apr 88 p 3

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Jean Miot—date, place not given]

[Text] Jean Miot: How do you plan to continue the democratization of Tunisia?

Ben Ali: I want to establish a real democracy in Tunisia rather than the image of a democracy. This is the result of my temperament and my conviction. Since 7 November, our action has followed two fundamental lines: the rehabilitation of the constitutional institutions such as the House of Representatives and the Economic and Social Council, to enable them to carry out their missions fully; and the establishment of new structures to supplement and strengthen the democratic institutions. The best example is the creation of a Constitutional Council. These institutions form a strong foundation rendering irreversible the democratic process which was started in the country on 7 November and which we are constantly consolidating.

Some measures have already been taken: amending the Constitution to confirm the revocation of the life presidency and automatic succession clauses, establishing control over the government by the house of representatives, and ending emergency courts.

Other measures are being prepared: a revision of the press code to render it more liberal, and a law on political parties.

These measures bear witness to our strong determination to make Tunisia a state governed by law and a free and democratic society.

That is why, to guarantee respect for human rights and establish a profound political consensus, a national pact is to be formed with the political and labor union organizations enabling us jointly to solve the country's economic, social, and political problems.

Vital Need

Jean Miot: Are not the new measures in favor of Islam likely to set an inevitable course for fundamentalism?

Ben Ali: Fundamentalism is certainly not a phenomenon which is unique to Tunisia. As you know, before 7 November, there were some obstacles to the freedom to practice religion. That produced reactions, some of which were extreme, from a large number of believers led by some activists and fanatics claiming to have a religious aim.

To clarify things, and to dissociate the demands of a large number of Tunisians who attach great importance to their faith from the designs of a minority who see in this demand an opportunity for political machinations, we adopted measures immediately after 7 November to give Islam its rightful place in a Muslim country. The aim was to reconcile Tunisia with Islam, one of its fundamental dimensions—an Islam which adheres to the values of tolerance, openness, and progress. Hence our modern view and the importance we attach to achievements which are a source of pride for modern Tunisia. Foremost among these achievements is the Individual Status Code which guarantees the rights of the family and especially of women.

In view of the fact that the situation has been remedied, the confusion between politics and religion is now no longer appropriate.

Jean Miot: You have mentioned economic growth. How do you intend to achieve it?

Ben Ali: To establish democracy successfully, the main problem which needs to be solved is the economic and social problem. Unemployment and its effects are our main handicap and we are determined to overcome them.

Economic growth is not just a challenge. It is a vital need.

The problems which Tunisia has faced in recent years show that, despite the efforts made in the framework of six consecutive development plans, the Tunisian economy still suffers from many structural weaknesses and weaknesses connected with the general economic climate.

Although the plan for Tunisian economic recovery was launched in 1986, we are now more aware of the need to implement reforms leading to real growth based on a substantial increase in investment and an improvement in our economic competitiveness, by an effective development of our productivity achieved through a better definition of our technological choices.

However, we have been forced to take supplementary emergency measures in the monetary, fiscal, customs, and currency spheres to stimulate Tunisian and foreign investors.

Similarly, we have adopted an additional program for employment. Our action focuses on achieving a regional balance to ensure a fairer distribution of the nation's wealth.

However, we are still convinced that real Tunisian economic recovery requires the restoration of complete confidence in the enterprise manager, the employee, and the administration. This obviously means combating bureaucracy, continuing liberalization, and emphasizing stringent management. Tunisian-Egyptian Relations

Jean Miot: Does the resumption of relations between Tunisia and Egypt reflect a change in your country's foreign policy?

Ben Ali: When the new era began in Tunisia on 7 November last year, we proclaimed the importance we attach to our country's fundamental foreign policy lines, and reaffirmed that we would stand by existing pledges in the framework of those principles. So, rather than a change in foreign policy, we opted for a new style of conducting our diplomacy. This diplomacy is now characterized by a more active presence on the international scene and more especially in the Maghreb region and in the Mediterranean and African Arab and Muslim world.

With regard to the resumption of our diplomatic relations with Egypt, it is not we who have changed but the attitude of the whole Arab community, including the PLO, which has changed toward Egypt and which has moved toward restoring relations between all Arab countries and Cairo.

It must be remembered that there was no particular dispute between our two countries before Arab-Egyptian relations were broken off as a result of the decision made by the Baghdad summit in 1979 in response to the signing of the Camp David accords, which were regarded as a serious attack to Arab solidarity.

Following the 1987 Amman summit decision to reverse that measure, we welcome the fact that Egypt has returned to its rightful place and its role within the Arab and Muslim world, particularly in North Africa.

The resumption of Tunisian-egyptian relations is natural, in view of the cultural and emotional ties between us, but also in view of our joint economic interests.

Leaders Briefed on Mestiri's U.S. Visit

LD011445 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] His excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has, with the Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche in attendance, has received a report from Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri on the results of the visit he paid to the United States and the intensive meetings which he held with the officials of the U.S. Government and Congress, in particular with secretary of state George Shultz, meetings on about bilateral relations and international issues of common concern. Mahmoud Mestiri informed the head of state about the U.S. officials' admiration for the achievements being realized in Tunisia in its new era following 7 November.

The foreign minister also informed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali that the talks he has held in the United States included a review of present and future prospects for bilateral cooperation.

Ben-Ali Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi
LD122322 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] His excellency the president of the Republic has had a meeting this evening with Mr Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi, the permanent delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League, who later declared that he had had the honor to meet his excellency the president, to whom he conveyed a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This message, he added, comes within the framework of the consultations taking place between the two countries' leaderships. He went on to say that as usual, he found the president very responsive, frank and clear.

Prime Minister Receives USSR'S Zaytsev
LD122111 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] At the Government House in the Kasba this afternoon Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met with Yevgeniy Zaytsev, chairman of the Soviet-Tunisian Friendship Society and first deputy chairman of the cultural department at the CPSU Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him. Yevgeniy Zaytsev reaffirmed to the prime minister the Soviet leadership's satisfaction with the important developments in Tunisia since 7 November 1987.

He noted that the meeting enabled both sides to exchange information about the existing cooperation between the two countries, and added that both sides have stressed the need to develop this cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical, and cultural spheres and in the training of cadres.

Prime Minister Leaves for Sudan 13 Apr
LD140559 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Tunisia this evening for Khartoum on a 3-day official visit to Sudan at the invitation of Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Further Reportage on Hijacking of Airliner

Libyan Envoy Condemns Hijack

LD131259 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1228 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Apr (KUNA)—The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has condemned the ugly criminal operation against the Kuwait Airways airliner and its innocent passengers. The secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Kuwait, Hassunah al-Lafi al-Shawish, in a press statement here today said: While we express our deep sorrow and regret for the innocent Kuwaiti victims, we cannot but condemn the ugly criminal operation.

Al-Shawish reaffirmed the Jamahiriyah's condemnation of such terrorist acts which—as he said—do not serve an aim at all. He pointed out that this stance has been reaffirmed by the Jamahiriyah more than once. He said this unjustifiable act is remote from all values and considerations which should govern our behavior as Arabs, Muslims, and human beings. He stressed that the enemies of our Arab and Islamic nation—imperialists and Zionists—are the real target against which we should direct our battle.

He went on to say: "While we declare our total condemnation and denunciation of this and of the fact it has led to the fall of victims, we would like to declare to our Arab people in Kuwait our solidarity, based on the fact that the sufferings and aspirations of the Arab nation—from the Gulf to the ocean—are one, and pray God to enable this people to avoid all tragedies."

Amir Telephones Arab Leaders

LD131351 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] In the context of the efforts made by Kuwait at the highest levels to end the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and save the innocent passengers held hostage, telephone conversations took place between his highness the amir and his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the sister Republic of Iraq; his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the sister Arab Republic of Syria; his brother His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution in the sister Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; his brother His Excellency President Amin Gemayel of the sister Republic of Lebanon; and his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the sister Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Iran 'Ordered' Hijacking

JN131549 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Apr 88 p 20

[Excerpt] Larnaca, Kuwait—AL-QABAS has learned from sources close to the current negotiations with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" in Larnaca that the hijacking of the airliner was ordered by Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and that the orders were carried out by the Islamic Action Organization, which is led by Mohammad Taqiyodin Modarresi. The implementation was supervised by his brother Hadi Modarresi in Mashhad.

The hijackers were trained at the Montazeri camp in northern Tehran and the hijacking was planned according to the most modern scientific and psychological methods.

AL-QABAS has learned that the hijackers are carrying Gulf and Lebanese passports. They include a Christian who embraced Islam and who is believed to be a Colombian.

The hijacked plane could have landed at nearer international airports such as Bandar-e 'Abbas, Shiraz, and Zahedan, but the plan stipulated that it should land at Mashhad airport where domestic flights were suspended on the previous day and to which an Iranian television team left on the orders of Mohtashemi, also on the previous day. Hadi Modarresi and a number of his supporters also arrived in Mashhad 1 day before the hijacking.

The hijackers were provided with two Kalashnikov machineguns and several hand grenades at Mashhad airport. They carried only revolvers upon takeoff from Bangkok. Two others joined the hijackers in Mashhad.

AL-QABAS has learned that the coded messages relayed to the hijackers from Beirut were ambiguous. Some of them were: 2 2 Islam; 1 3 anger; hawk 1.

The sources said that Mohtashemi instigated this operation to back up his hardline policy in the Iranian elections as he is ambitious to get the post of prime minister. [passage omitted]

2 Board at Mashhad

LD131614 Kuwait KUNA in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 13 (KUNA)—A hostage freed from the Kuwaiti airliner disclosed Wednesday that the hijackers changed "their team while the plane was grounded at Mashhad Airport" in Iran.

Ramadan Ali, an Egyptian who was among the released passengers at Larnaca Airport last night told BBC radio this afternoon "I believe they changed their crew (hijackers) while in Iran. One of them left and another two joined. New faces came over and they provided them with new weapons, arms, robes and explosives."

He described the air pirates as "rough, harsh and they do not have any mercy with people".

Responding to a query, Ali said that the hijackers "acted very professionally in the business of hijacking...the way they acted and treated people and the way they sealed the plane from inside by explosives was very professional".

The freed hostage described his eight days' ordeal as "a nightmare, a very bad experience that affected me psychologically very much."

"I was living minute by minute expecting that they grab me like chicken and kill me as they did with the two Kuwaitis. In fact I did not see them doing that I only saw them taking a guy and he disappeared and he did not come back."

Answering a question about what he did during his week-long captivity, the former hostage pointed out "in fact I could not do anything except sit in my place with my hands tied up."

The freed passenger said "when you face almost five to seven guys with explosives, weapons and machine guns you cannot do anything."

During the interview Ali told the BBC that he showed the hijackers his Egyptian passport while hiding in his briefcase the American passport which he also holds.

"I was very scared because if they searched my briefcase I would be the first to get shot because I have an American passport".

He also revealed that the hijackers threatened the hostages by suggesting that "if anything happened, they can get us anywhere."

Released Passengers Arrive

LD131957 Kuwait KUNA in English 1652 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—A special plane carrying the twelve men who were released in Larnaca last night by the hijackers of the Kuwait Airways jet KU 422 arrived here this evening.

They were greeted at the airport by Interior Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, senior government officials and relatives. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a senior Kuwait Airways Corporation [KAC] official told reporters that negotiations with hijackers are often a very tough task which calls for patience and diplomacy.

The head of KAC Public Relations Department Abdallah al-Nafisi explained that negotiators had to soften the highly tense hijackers as to lessen the likelihood of violence and eventually the number of casualties.

Asked if Algerian negotiators had received assurances from the hijackers that they would release the other hostages, Al-Nafisi failed to confirm such reports and would only say that results of the negotiations would be the answer.

Responding to a query, he said KAC's decision to suspend its routes to Bangkok and other Southeast Asian countries was a temporary arrangement but he added that it would remain valid indefinitely.

Admitting that the suspension would adversely affect KAC but he said the move was taken in view of the hijack problem.

Saudis Reaffirm Support

LD132039 Kuwait KUNA in English 1935 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Wednesday reached His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah over the telephone to renew his country's condemnation of the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

The Saudi leader said King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi Government and people denounce and condemn the criminal hijacking and the killing of two innocent passengers.

The Saudi official praised Kuwait's handling of the crisis and its firm stand against terrorism, blackmail and intimidation. He also pledged Saudi support for Kuwait in the face of the "appalling crime."

Shaykh Sa'd, for his part, expressed Kuwait's deep appreciation of Saudi Arabia's brotherly attitude.

Official Thanks Cyprus

LD132131 Kuwait KUNA in English 1942 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Nicosia, April 13 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti State Minister for Services Affairs 'Isa al-Mazidi Wednesday expressed Kuwait's appreciation for the way the Cypriot Government handled the hijack drama.

Al-Mazidi, who is also head of the Kuwaiti negotiation them, was received by Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou few hours after the Kuwaiti jumbo jet with the

hijackers and some 35 hostages on board flew from Larnaca Airport to Houair Boumedienne Airport in Algiers, the Cypriot news agency reported.

Following the meeting, Al-Mazidi stated that he had conveyed to President Vasiliou the "great appreciation" of the amir and the people of Kuwait "for all the support and the efforts that they have exerted to safeguard the lives of the hostages of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane".

President Vasiliou assured the Kuwaiti official of the friendly feeling of the Government and the people of Cyprus for the amir, the government and the people of Kuwait, the agency said.

Vasiliou conveyed an invitation to the Kuwaiti amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to visit Cyprus and expressed the hope that the visit would take place this year, the agency added.

For his part, Al-Mazidi thanked the Cypriot Foreign interior and communications ministries for their effective role to save lives of the hostages.

The Kuwaiti official expressed satisfaction with the release at Larnaca of twelve of the hostages, "but we shall be happier to see the rest of them released as well".

He hoped the rest of the hostages would be released as soon as possible.

"May God bless all the efforts that have been made and the efforts that will be exerted to ensure that result," he concluded.

Officials Favor Death Sentences

NC140710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The AL-DIYAR newspaper has reported that senior Kuwaiti political and security officials have held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the circumstances under which the Kuwaiti plane was hijacked and the containment of its repercussions.

The paper pointed out that Kuwaiti officials favor asking Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, to sign the warrants for the death sentences against 3 of the 17 prisoners accused of committing various acts of terrorism in 1983. AL-DIYAR quoted a Lebanese diplomatic source as saying that the death sentences might be carried out soon.

Official on Larnaca Events

LD140847 Kuwait KUNA in English 0743 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 14 (KUNA)—State Minister for Services Affairs 'Isa al-Mazidi affirmed in a press statement, published here Thursday, if the landing of hijacked Kuwaiti airplane, Al-Jabiriyah, was delayed for few seconds at Larnaca Airport last Friday, it would been blasted in mid-air, because it had run out of fuel.

In an exclusive statement to Kuwaiti daily "AL-QABAS", Al-Mazidi, who was head of the Kuwaiti delegation that went to Cyprus to take part in negotiations with the hijackers, added that if the plane continued circling over Larnaca Airport for one more time, a disaster would have occurred, noting in that regard that due to the efforts of the Cypriot authorities a catastrophe was avoided.

Al-Mazidi, who returned here yesterday from Cyprus, said that he met with the Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou and conveyed gratitude and thanks of the Kuwaiti Government to efforts exerted by the Government in Cyprus that led to the release of 12 of the hostages who were on board the Kuwaiti aircraft. The Kuwaiti minister also met Cypriot interior minister for the same purpose.

Meanwhile, Al-Mazidi reiterated Kuwait's stance of not yielding to blackmail or retreating from its decisions, which reflects the will of the people.

Hijack Victims Buried

LD140957 Kuwait KUNA in English 0855 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 14 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti airbus "Kadhmah" [name as received] took off last night to Algiers to bring back passengers, who will be released hopefully soon from hijacked KAC [Kuwait Airways Corporation] aircraft Al-Jabiriyah which is currently grounded at Houari Boumediene Airport daily AL-WATAN published here Thursday said.

The daily quoted unidentified sources as saying Kadhmah, which was hijacked in 1985, left here yesterday equipped with medical supplies to help the hostages expected to be freed soon.

The Kuwaiti aircraft Al-Jabiriyah has been hijacked ten days ago and the passengers still on board are suffering badly.

The two young Kuwaiti passengers were killed in cold blood by the hijackers while in Larnaca Airport, Cyprus. They were buried this morning following state funeral attended by H.H. the crown prince and premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and top government officials.

Commentaries View Hijacking, Terrorism Policy

Press on 'Barbaric' Hijack

LD131049 Kuwait KUNA in English 0916 GMT 13 Apr 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—Local dailies Wednesday affirmed that the Kuwaiti peopole does not accept humiliation, and called for punishing the hijackers who held hostage the unarmed civilians and killed

two innocent people on board the Kuwaiti hijacked airliner.

Daily "Al-SIYASAH" in a front page editorial said that those who planned this operation will be written off in history as the worst criminals and should be severely punished.

"Those who disrupt the lives and threaten the security of people will not last long, even though they may think they are clever," the paper added.

It noted that "seeing bodies thrown from the hijacked plane by hijackers reminds us of a savage life before mankind was introduced to civilisation or to religions, which were concluded by Islam."

"This ugly incident will remain a stigma on those in Tehran who appear to be more human butchers than human beings" Al-SIYASAH concluded.

Meanwhile daily "AL-ANBA'" said that the release of some of the hostages last night did not mean that the ugly ordeal has ended, noting that the issue is smeared with innocent blood.

The paper editorially affirmed that the barbaric skyjack should not be forgotten as a passing episode, or as a sad event, but "our policy should be firm and decisive towards the terrorists, those behind them, and all parties which involved in the hijack.

"AL-ANBA'" said "Kuwait was hit in its sovereignty, pride and people in a very painful manner.

It emphasized, however, that "we are a kind of people who does not and will not accept humiliation, and will not forgive those who dared to hurt us specially when it comes from a numbe. of cowardly criminals.

Daily "AL-QABAS" for its part said that Kuwait with its limited potentials has managed to stand fast before those devils, and did not divert a fraction, from its principles and commitments, and maintained its cedibility and respect.

The daily, while congratulating the release of twelve passengers hoped for the rest similar safety.

The paper questioned the role of the civilized forces toward the incident and said "what have they done in combatting terrorism which is imposed on the innocent people everywhere and at any time.

The paper referred to the hijackers' choice of the released passengers saying that it signals their intention to differentiate between a Kuwaiti and another, and to sow differences in lines of the people.

Hailing Kuwait's policy, the daily said that Kuwait has succeeded in handling the tragedy with wisdom and without giving in to any demands which forced the hijackers to release some of the innocent hostages.

Dailies "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" and English language paper "KUWAIT TIMES" of Kuwaiti Government stance in dealing with the hijack, saying that such stance deserved appreciation and admiration. [sentence as received]

The paper added that the hijack proved once again that the government maintains an excellent ability in dealing with emergencies.

The daily urged a continued strict and firm stand with the hijackers and added that no leniency or sympathy should shown to those criminals.

Saying that a link existed between the hijackers and Iran, "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" noted, that it was clear that the plot has been planned in harmany between both parties.

"KUWAIT TIMES" said the decision not to make any concession to the hijackers was not a decision of only the government but the people of Kuwait.

It added that "all we can do is hope and pray that the hijackers will see the light of reason, that their quest for justice, as they put it, along the path of violence is going to end in an exercise of utter futility.

In conclusion, the paper prayed that the grace of the Almighty will continue to fortify all of the hostages in this moment of need, and added that the nation is with them.

Terrorism Stance Unchanged

LD131216 Kuwait KUNA in English 1105 GMT 13 Apr 88

["A KUNA Commentary"—KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—Although the landing in Algiers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner represented a positive development in the nine day ordeal of the hostages and their bereaved families, Kuwait still proudly refuses to cave in to the hijackers' blackmail.

The hijackers killed two Kuwaiti hostages on board the plane in cold blood after torturing them for long hours with unmatched savagery and brutality in a failed attempt to bend the resolve of the Kuwaiti Government and people.

The release yesterday of 12 hostages in Larnaca, the hijacked airliner's second stop after its diversion to Mashhad, northeast Iran last Tuesday, is definitely an outcome of Kuwait's rightful rejection of intimidation and blackmail practices by the air pirates.

While hoping that the remaining hostages on the plane would be freed soon, Kuwait has every right to protect its land, citizens and residents and the people on board the plane, which is part of Kuwaiti territory.

This Arab state's firm position towards terrorism, including hijacking, explosions and assassinations, is well known as it is based on total rejection of such criminal acts and refusal to budge.

The massive show of public support for the government's handling of the hijack episode was a clear message to the villain cowards and should have disappointed them.

"It is a loud no in the face of the plotters, that we would keep our heads high and do not bend before no one but the Almighty in gratitude to His many graces that gave us perseverance, courage and steadfastness."

Whilst extending thanks and appreciation to the civilized and humanitarian sympathy shown to the Kuwait Government and people during the hijack drama, Kuwait strongly hopes that the international community would take effective measures to combat terrorism.

The rise in internaitonal terrorism over recent years has coincided with the events that sparked off unrest and wars in the region, be they regional conflicts, civil wars or confessional seditions.

It is intolerable that the crime of hijacking the Kuwaiti airliner should be allowed to pass without the international community taking effective measures to uproot terrorism, bombings and aggressions that shakes security and stability.

ARAB TIMES Implicates Iran

JN131540 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Apr 88 p 6

["Opinion" Column: "Iran Is Behind the Hijacking" by Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] We should not continue deceiving ourselves. From the first few moments of the hijacking, it appeared that it was executed by a country and not by an organisation.

The carefully planned hijacking and then directing the plane to Mashhad, Iran, certainly suggests that the hijackers are instruments of a state—Iran—the leader of international terrorism.

Frankly speaking, Iran is behind the hijacking and kidnapping operations. It seems that Iran thought that after attacking Bubiyan Island and wounding two Kuwaiti soldiers, Kuwait would be frightened and willing to concede on the issue of Iran's agents imprisoned in Kuwait.

Iran may have thought Kuwaiti strength had weakened and differed from that which was evidenced four years ago when the KAC Airbus was hijacked. Iran must have also thought that the presence of three members of the Kuwaiti ruling family aboard the hijacked plane would force the Kuwaiti leadership to quickly succumb to the will of the hijackers and to Iranian demands.

It is a tragedy that the world still witnesses air piracy and those involved are freed without any deterrent action taken.

Iran is playing the role of the loafer who after hitting an important man is honoured rather than punished. When the important man was asked why he did not punish the loafer, he replied that by honouring him, he would be encouraged to strike a leader, who would most assuredly cut off his head.

This is exactly the case with Iran. Iran thought that when the world ignored its acts it was because they were frightened. Iran forgot that it cannot continue its policy of disturbing world peace.

Throughout the past 30 years, the Kuwaiti leadership has given the world many lessons in principles, from which Kuwait has never deviated.

We have experienced the fact that anyone who wishes to harm this country, will eventually harm himself.

We do not claim to have power, since we do not have weapons like the Soviet Union, the advancements of the U.S. or the power of Western Europe. What we have is testimony from the whole world that we are a country of principles.

The hijackers and Iran have greatly miscalculated their venture, although they have proven very efficient in planning the hijacking.

The Kuwaiti political leadership has been trying to deal with Iran logically and reasonably. Iran will one day be taught a tough lesson.

Iran should study carefully the story of the loafer before it's too late and before most of its leaders are tried as war criminals.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Security

PM131323 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Apr 88 p 18

[Unattributed interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; place, date not specified]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: At the security level Kuwait is a target. So what defensive measures have you taken to protect its borders, its security, and the safety of its citizens?

Shaykh Nawwaf: It is Almighty God who protects Kuwait. This is in addition to the political leadership's belief in the need to guarantee Kuwait's security as well as the cohesion of the domestic front. Undoubtedly our brave armed forces will do their duty as their conscience dictates to implement the plans drawn up by the country's leader and father, the amir, in response to the Kuwaiti people's aspirations. All these factors will deter anyone seeking to attack this blessed land. Besides, we are part of the Arab nation and any aggression against us is aggression against the entire Arab nation.

AL-HAWADITH: Bubiyan is located in an area near the frontline, 20 km from Al-Faw, which is occupied by Iran. This urges a military presence as well as military responsibilities. Has Kuwait taken such steps?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Kuwait has certainly done all it can and has, of course, deployed its resources to provide protection for that island. Kuwait is not a party to the conflict between the two Muslim countries, but we must defend our territory and watch over the safety of our people. The nature of any war urges this.

AL-HAWADITH: Can we be assured of a unified Gulf front, despite some difference in viewpoints among the Gulf states and the close relationship maintained by some of them with Iran?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Yes. There is cooperation among the GCC states. These states are coherent and united. And, as I said earlier, any aggression would be considered aggression against all the GCC states.

Obviously there can sometimes be differences in viewpoints but the stand will always remain unified if, God forbid, an attack takes place. This is guaranteed and is not subject to any argument, since we are very confident about it. The ties among the GCC states in the past provide evidence of this.

AL-HAWADITH: You have visited positions, the front, and the soldiers. Did you sense satisfaction on the part of the Kuwaiti soldier, and how would you rate him in comparison with other Arab or international military men?

Shaykh Nawwaf: The Kuwaiti soldier is part of the army of Arab soldiers. During my field inspection I acquainted myself with what the Kuwaiti soldier is doing, in terms of training and preparedness. I was considerably pleased, and I believe that he is completely ready for any confrontation, should it takes place, God forbid.

The Kuwaiti soldier has attained a highly advanced state in training and military sciences, thanks to the Kuwaiti youth and those in charge of the military institution. Today we note that all our Arab armies are seeking to advance further, especially since wars in this age have become both tactical and technological.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you still preparing to purchase minesweepers, or are you giving preference to buying air defense means?

Shaykh Nawwaf: If such equipment is needed we will work toward securing it. Today we are providing our armed forces with the latest equipment and we shall spare no efforts in this regard, since this is a necessity for all citizens, as we are instructed by the country's leader and father, the amir, and his heir apparent.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you provide any facilities in the Gulf for minesweepers belonging to the United States and its allies? And did you allow it to set up a floating military base?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We have no bases or floating platforms. And there are no minesweepers in our territorial waters. I will not conceal that in the past we have asked Saudi Arabia to provide us with sweepers for a short period of time when their use was a must.

AL-HAWADITH: You talked about protection for the Kuwaiti coastline. Is such protection available at the level required?

Shaykh Nawwaf: After thorough study by specialists in the armed forces we prepared a plan to protect the coastline. This plan will be confirmed in the near future, God willing.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the pressures on Iran eventually lead it to implement Security Council Resolution 598?

Shaykh Nawwaf: I believe that, once Iran notices or senses seriousness in the resolutions adopted by the Security Council's permanent members, it will comply with the resolution and implement it.

AL-HAWADITH: Is protection provided for Kuwaiti oil installations?

Shaykh Nawwaf: After what has happened in the past, we have coordinated a joint plan among the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the National Guard to foster protection of installations—an impregnable protection to guarantee security, taking into account all possibilities.

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, are we on the road to implementing a joint Arab defense?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Joint Arab defense already exists, but regrettably it is not being implemented.

AL-HAWADITH: And is it possible to revive it?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Yes, with will, determination, good intent, and a unified stand.

AL-HAWADITH: Will there be a GCC meeting in the near future?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Of course. The annual meeting of defense ministers will be held next October in Riyadh. There is no urgent need to convene an emergency meeting.

AL-HAWADITH: What about Iraq's position in its war with Iran?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Iraq's military position is better than in the past and is gaining more strength and impregnability daily via firm stands and increasing capabilities.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to Israel's threat to launch a deterrent strike against the Saudi defense system, what is Kuwait's stand toward such a threat?

Shaykh Nawwaf: This is an example of Israeli interference in Saudi Arabia's internal affairs. Every state has the right to strengthen its defense capabilities. This is a necessity as well as a justified and rational duty. If Israel is threatening, the Arab states and friendly states will side with Saudi Arabia. We in Kuwait are with the kingdom heart and soul, since what harms Saudi Arabia harms Kuwait as well.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Kuwait preparing for a new arms deal?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Yes. Kuwait always seeks to develop its military institutions with the latest weapons and from sources providing arms of assured quality. Our relations with everyone are sound. [Shaykh Nawwaf ends]

In a final comment Shaykh Nawwaf said that the Kuwaiti people's belief in God as well as in the cohesion of the domestic front prompt us to be assured of Kuwait's security. He denied that there could be any differences in viewpoints within the Kuwaiti leadership over crucial issues or any other matters.

Oman

Daily Reports on Visit by Soviet Delegation

PM131353 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "His Highness al-Sayyid Fahd Receives Soviet Delegation"]

[Text] The Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, His Highness al-Sayyid Fahd ibn Muhmud al-Sa'id, yesterday received Georgiy Tarazevich, the Vice-President [as published] of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and his delegation currently on an official visit to Oman.

Their discussions covered bilateral relations, the current situation in the Gulf region and international issues of common concern to the two countries.

Welcoming the Soviet delegation, His Highness Sayyid Fahd underlined the cordial nature of relations between the sultanate and the Soviet Union.

Mr Tarazevich expressed his admiration of Oman's development in various fields. He also expressed his appreciation of the extent of bilateral co-operation between the two countries and the Soviet leadership's desire to expand it further in the interests of the two peoples.

The President of the State Consultative Council, Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali ibn Muhammad al-Qatabi, also received Mr Tarazevich and his delegation yesterday. The SCC President explained to the Soviet visitors the objectives of the Council, its constitution, activities and achievements.

Mr Tarazevich praised the Council's style of functioning and its activities in economic and social fields. He explained to the SCC chief the role of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and its functions.

Shaykh 'Abdallah and Mr Tarazevich also discussed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad ibn Zahir al-Hina'i and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Salim al-Isa'i, the Deputy Presidents of the SCC, and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Nabhani, the Secretary General of the Council.

PDRY

Al-'Attas, 'Arafat Discuss Palestinian Issues

LD132100 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, had a meeting in his office this evening with his militant brother, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

During the meeting, Brother al-'Attas warmly welcomed his brother, Yasir 'Arafat, and discussed with him the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly the escalation of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, the new impetus that it has given to the Palestinian revolution led by the PLO, and the further exposure of the Nazi behavior of the Zionists.

They also discussed all the new factors, at the Arab and international levels, backing the struggle and legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs, as well as the results of the important visit Yasir 'Arafat paid to Moscow and his meeting with Soviet leader leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Also discussed were the continuing contacts and consultations on holding an Arab summit, as proposed by

sisterly Algeria. They reviewed Zionist-imperialist attempts to abort the uprising of the Palestinian people, the latest of which is George Shultz' tour of the Middle East.

The meeting touched on the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. Brother al-'Attas reaffirmed our country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab People.

For his part, the militant brother, Yasir 'Arafat, expressed high appreciation of the support of the YSP and the democratic Yemeni state for the Palestinian revolution at all stages of its struggle. He confirmed the depth of the militant relations that bind the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism. [passage omitted]

Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, arrived in Aden this afternoon for a visit to Democratic Yemen that will last several days.

In a statement to ANA, he explained that during his visit he would holds talks with officials in our country about all the conditions affecting the Palestinian cause, the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people, the latest developments on the Arab and international arenas, and the U.S. attempts to impose capitulationist solutions on our Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He pointed out that he would also discuss the initiative of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, which was approved by the Arab foreign ministers.

At the end of his statement, he expressed the Palestinian people's pride and their thanks for the support being offered by the people and Government of Democratic Yemen for the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Discusses Gulf With Iranian Foreign Minister

LD121849 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred with the ruler of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani in Doha Tuesday afternoon.

The Iranian minister and his entourage after leaving Abu Dhabi today arrived in Doha on the third leg of their Persian Gulf tour.

Velayati pointing to his meetings with Omanese and U.A.E. officials termed the contacts as effective in decreasing tension in the region and solving regional problems.

He said one of the factors responsible for reducing presence of foreign forces in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region is the willingness of littoral states to cooperate with one another.

The Islamic Republic of Iran highly esteems the promotion of friendly relations, Velayati said emphatically.

The Iranian official presented to the Qatar ruler documents on the Iraqi chemical bombardment of Halabjah (on March 18). Velayati stressed on the need for identification and punishment of the aggressor in the Iraqi imposed war.

Also discussed at the meeting were international issues including the Afghanistan crisis and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country as well as the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine.

In response, the Qatari shaykh emphasised on the need for establishing cordial relations among the neighbouring countries and stated that his country is willing to expand such ties.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Velayati left Tehran Sunday to visit several Persian Gulf countries including Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

SPA on Paper's 'Accusations' on Missiles

LD132043 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Apr (SPA)—In reply to the condemnable accusations leveled at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in an article published by today's WASHINGTON POST under the title "The Tortoise Becomes Active," a responsible source made the following statement to SPA:

"From the moment we started reading the article published today by THE WASHINGTON POST we realized that its author either totally ignored the truth of the facts in which he became entangled or that he had been charged by some specific quarters to try to affect existing Saudi-U.S. relations."

The source added: "With regard to what the paper has said about the missiles the Kingdom bought from China, this matter was discussed between the Saudi and U.S. Governments. In the end the U.S. officials were convinced of the clarifications and announcements made then by the Kingdom on these missiles. The commentaries and speculations carried by the Western press deserve no attention.

"With regard to what THE WASHINGTON POST has written—in an improper style unbefitting of its reputation with readers—about His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, let the author of the article know that his royal highness enjoys the respect and consideration of the U.S. Government for what he has done and is still doing to consolidate and reinforce the strong bilateral ties that have existed over the past decades. These are old and deep-rooted relations based on firm foundations of mutual respect and total understanding of the requirements dictated by circumstances. In this respect, I must refer to the Saudi officials' understanding of the position of U.S. President Ronald Reagan when he was unable to pass the arms deals needed by the Kingdom due to the intransigence of some U.S. congressmen. The Kingdom did not however embarrass him by insisting or pressing him to secure its requests but it immediately turned to other states to purchase the necessary means to defend its security and sanctities in the hope that the U.S. Congress would reconsider its refusal and would become convinced of the fairness of the Kingdom's requests and its legitimate right to defend its territory against repeated threats."

The source added: As for what the paper has said about the Kingdom's abandonment of its commitments toward specific states, it is common knowledge that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the state most faithful to its commitments despite all the circumstances and changes, and it does not need anyone to remind it or exhort it to be faithful to its commitments."

The source also indicated: "As for the issue raised by the paper with regard to the transfer of U.S. Ambassador Horan from the Kingdom to other duties, the Kingdom has already issued a statement to indicate that Ambassador Horan had, since his arrival in the Kingdom, received all due attention from Saudi officials. The statement also pointed out that the transfer of U.S. ambassadors from one country to another is the decision of the U.S. Government alone. After this clarification there is no room for disinformation and interpretation."

The source concluded the statement saying: "We now have to tell officials of THE WASHINGTON POST that such attempts do not and will have absolutely no impact on the course of the Saudi-U.S. relations and that they have no weight in the assessment of the mutual understandings and the common interests of the two countries. But if the article was due to the ignorance of its author, and this is what we expect, then he has to examine matters from his source before becoming entangled in something he ignores. There exists nothing between him and the Kingdom preventing him from discovering the facts for himself if he wishes to."

Bahraini Prime Minister Makes Statement, Departs
JN130844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah left Baghdad today following a 1-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

In a statement to INA, the Bahraini prime minister said that the visit allowed him and the accompanying delegation to meet their brothers in their second homeland, Iraq.

He said that he exchanged opinions with President Saddam Husayn. He pointed out that his talks with 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Iraqi officials dealt with various issues of interest to both Iraq and Bahrain, and that they produced good results to further promote the strong fraternal relations between the peoples of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah said that he stresses his support, which is based on a unanimous Arabian Gulf efforts, for achieving a peaceful end to the devastating war.

He also stressed the need to continue efforts to end the war which exhausts both countries' resources. He expressed his appreciation for Iraq's response to peaceful calls.

He expressed the hope that Iran will soon respond to peace calls and the will of the international community that is embodied by UN Security Council Resolution 598 to achieve a just, peaceful settlement. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Returns From Tunis Meeting on 'Uprising'
JN102114 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad from Tunis this evening after participating in the meetings of the seven-member Arab committee on the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. The meetings began in Tunis this morning.

Oil Minister Cited on Production, Pipeline
JN051537 Baghdad INA English 1445 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, April 5, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi said here today that levels of oil production for the first quarter of 1988 were better than those achieved in the same period of 1987.

Speaking at a press conference today, Mr. al-Jalabi said all available means for exporting oil and by-products had been exploited while the import of certain types of lubricants had been reduced.

Reviewing the achievements of Iraqi oil sector over the past few years, Mr. al-Jalabi pointed out that these included the second expansion stage of the Iraqi oil pipeline across Turkey which increased its capacity from the million B/D [barrels per day] to 1.5 million B/D, and the building of the second stage of the Iraqi oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia which will increase its capacity from 500,000 B/D to 1.65 million B/D.

Mr. al-Jalabi noted that the national campaign for energy rationalization has succeeded and that more than 64 million dollars have been saved as a result.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,133
JN131601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—A military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command has summed up the three Al-Husayn missile strikes launched at Tehran today.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 3,133 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Al-Husayn missile force today carried out the following missile strikes:

1. At 1220 [0820 GMT] today, the 89th Al-Husayn missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

2. At the same time, the 90th Al-Husayn missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

3. At 1430 today, the Al-Husayn missile force carried out the 91st missile strike against the city of Tehran.

Blessed be your efforts O good ones in this proud country. Thanks be to God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1988

Communique No 3,134

JN131638 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1604 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,134 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. The noble knights of the helicopter gunships today carried out 84 combat missions during which they inflicted new losses on the enemy scoundrels and on their weapons and vehicles.

They then returned with their planes safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors:

—Three enemy personnel killed.

—Two infantry positions destroyed.

—One shovel destroyed.

—Two vehicles set ablaze and destroyed and a third damaged.

—Two ammunition dumps blown up.

3. Three infantry positions and one SPG-9 were destroyed in the sector of the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces. One of the scoundrels was killed and and two infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps Central sector.

4. One of our brave units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris confronted an enemy force which attempted to approach our forward positions. Our unit managed to kill 40 personnel of the enemy force, while the few who survived fled. In the same sector, a quadruple machinegun was destroyed and its crew killed.

5. Two ammunition dumps were blown up in the V Army Corps northern sector. Two scoundrels were killed and six various positions and one enemy heavy machinegun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. With long-range artillery the criminal enemy shelled residential districts in the cities of Khanaqin and Darband-i Khan. The enemy shelling martyred or wounded a number of our dear citizens, including women and children.

The shelling also damaged a number of houses and other civilian property. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN140513 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2258 [1858 GMT] yesterday, the Iranian rulers fired a missile at our capital Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women and children, and also demolishing and damaging a number of houses, shops, and civilian cars. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 14 April 1988

Missile Strike on Esfahan

JN140638 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0625 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the 92d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at the city of Esfahan at 0930 [0530 GMT] today.

Greetings to the men of the Military Industries Organization and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. Determination and success come from God.

[Dated] 14 April 1988

Missile Launched at Qom

JN140729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0718 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the 93d missile strike was launched at the city of Qom at 1040 [0640 GMT] today. This is the second missile strike launched today. May God bless the men of the Military Industries Organization and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. March ahead.

[Dated] 14 April 1988

94th Strike on Tehran

JN141226 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1216 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1525 [1125 GMT] today, the Al-Husayn missile force dealt the 94th strike on the city of Tehran

with the Al-Husayn missiles. May God bless your efforts O men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. Praise be to God for His victory.

[dated] 14 April 1988

Commander on Battles in North

JN141053 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Bahgdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The I Army Corps commander has said fierce battles occurred day and night in the direction of Jabal Hadid [name as received], the Tutman Valley, and Blukan [name as received] between the Iraqi forces and Iranian forces composed of a military division in the Panjwin front. These battles have resulted in destroying the Iranian forces.

He added that the Iraqi soldiers from the Al-Siddiq forces fought from 0130 last Sunday [2130 GMT on 9 April] until 1800 on 12 April. The soldiers fought from one trench to another and from one rock to another until they turned 'Aridat Hadid [name as received], the Tutman basin, and the mountain heights surrounding it into mass graves for thousands of troops from the attacking Iranian division.

This was mentioned in a cable to President Saddam Husayn from the staff major general commander of the I Army Corps on terminating the Iranian offensive in the Panjwin area in northern Iraq.

He said the Iranian divisions, formations, and regiments have no fight left in them. [passage omitted]

Protest Made to UN Over Iranian Shelling

JN121237 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1217 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The United Nations, 12 Apr (INA)—'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, informed the UN Security Council yesterday that the Iranian regime is insisting on shelling purely residential areas in Iraq.

In a message delivered to the UN Security Council president, Kittani said that the Iranian shelling on Tuesday and Wednesday [5 and 6 April] wounded civilians in the Governorates of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Diyala, and Maysan. In his message, he added that the shelling also damaged civilian property.

UN Team Departs After Mission on CW Victims

JN111908 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1633 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—A UN team, entrusted with examining the Iraqi military men who were wounded in the Iranian chemical bombardment of the Halabjah area, left Baghdad today. The team visited those injured by the Iranian chemical bombardment [words indistinct] aircraft and artillery on 30 and 31 March.

The team is expected to submit a report on the outcome of its mission to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The team arrived in Baghdad last Thursday [1 April] following a request submitted to the UN secretary general by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, informing him that Iran used chemical weapons against the Iraqi forces in the Halabjah area.

Likud Accuses Pickering of 'Gross Interference'

TA141152 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering yesterday again condemned Israel for its excessive and unnecessary use of force against inhabitants of the territories.

In a lecture to the Israel-U.S. Friendship Association, Pickering said: "The IDF used excessive lethal force, above and beyond that required by the situation, in its encounter with a mob." Pickering pointed out that "Israel bears responsibility for maintaining law and order in the territories. The United States traditionally opposes deportations, administrative detentions, the demolition and sealing up of houses, especially when this is done without due legal process."

There was deep anger with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering among Likud leaders. The Likud accused the ambassador of gross interference in Israel's internal affairs, and of making declarations which incite unrest in the territories.

Shevardnadze Upcoming Mideast Tour Disclosed

TA140534 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] Prospects for Soviet-American understanding on the U.S. peace initiative were enhanced yesterday as the Soviet Embassy in Amman confirmed that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze plans to conduct an unprecedented tour of the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Cabinet ministers and other officials contacted by THE JERUSALEM POST last night appeared resigned to the fact that Shevardnadze would not visit Israel, although some senior officials did not rule out the possibility of such a dramatic move.

Well-placed sources said that the planned visit indicates that the Soviets wish to advance the Shultz peace initiative. The Soviets may not support the details of the Shultz plan, one official said, but they do view it as an "excellent vehicle" for enhancing their diplomatic presence in the Middle East.

Shevardnadze is slated to meet Shultz in Geneva today to sign the agreement facilitating a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. Sources in Jerusalem said that the Middle East has been placed on the agenda for their talks today.

Although the Soviet Embassy in Amman said only that Shevardnadze would arrive in the area "soon," sources in Jerusalem expect the visit to take place as early as the beginning of next week, in advance of the extensive talks between Shultz and Shevardnadze scheduled to be held on April 22-24.

Sources close to Foreign Minister Peres have said that the U.S. has some "intriguing formulas" that might bridge the Soviet-American differences concerning an international conference on Middle East peace. [passage omitted]

Peres' policy adviser, Nimrod Novik, was in Paris yesterday and is expected to meet today with the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, Vladimir Terasov. There have also been unconfirmed reports that Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director-general of the prime minister's office, may meet with Soviet officials in London.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 14 April in a report adds that "according to as yet unconfirmed reports, Meridor has held a series of meetings in Vienna with Soviet officials in preparation for the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in Moscow in a week."]

Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur told THE POST last night that Shevardnadze's visit contradicts Likud assertions that the Soviets are not interested in a Middle East diplomatic process. The visit, he said indicates Soviet involvement and proves that the peace process will move ahead, despite Israel's inability to endorse the U.S. plan. [passage omitted]

Sources in Jerusalem said that the main purpose of the visit is to project the Soviets' "superpower image," which the Kremlin wants to be on a par with that of the U.S.

The sources said that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's public call last week to Yasir 'Arafat to recognize Israel is seen as a more favourable signal to Jordan than to Israel. The sources noted that Gorbachev had asked 'Arafat to meet one of the conditions put to the PLO by Jordan for the PLO's participation.

Soviets End 20-Year Ban on Ham Radio Contacts

TA141140 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] Soviet ham radio operators may now communicate with amateur radio operators in Israel, ending a 20-year ban.

This was announced last week in Moscow at a national conference of Soviet radio hams, Communications Ministry Director-General Ben-'Ami Gov said here yesterday.

In the past, Israelis were able to contact Russian hams but the latter were afraid to answer.

UNRWA Official's Claim of Poison Gas Denied

TA131725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman has denied that soldiers used poisonous gas to disperse rioters in the territories. This accusation was made today by John Hiddlestone, director of UNRWA's health services.

Upon his return from a tour of the Middle East, Hiddlestone said in Vienna that two Palestinian youngsters had died and 60 women in refugee camps had miscarried after being sprayed with the gas. Hiddlestone claimed that IDF soldiers used this new gas in addition to the regular tear gas used for dispersing riots.

The IDF spokesman told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that the IDF uses regulation tear gas only.

Court Rejects Deportee Appeals; Reasons Cited

TA140814 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The five justices sitting as the High Court of Justice this morning made public their reasons for rejecting the appeals of three deportees from the territories against their expulsion. The three were expelled earlier this week, along with five others. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reviews the court's reasoning:

[Begin recording] The decision, made by a special five-justice panel, reads as follows: The decision-making process involved no abuse of power, misuse of jurisdiction, ulterior motives, arbitrariness, reprehensible discrimination, or any other wrongdoing. Therefore, wrote Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar, I would reject the appeals.

As for the main contention that the fourth Geneva Convention prohibits expulsion, Shamgar ruled: The authors of the Convention bore in mind the main goal of protecting the general civilian population from expulsions. The appellants' argument conflicts with the legal conceptions observed in Israel.

Although the appeals were rejected, the justices permitted the deportees to submit another appeal, either to the person who issued the expulsion orders or to the consultative committee.

Another novelty in the ruling is that from now on, candidates for deportation will be allowed to bring witnesses to the consultative committee affiliated with the commanders of the various commands. This has not been practiced before.

Let us only point out that Justice Gavri'el Bach disagreed with his four colleagues' interpretation of the Geneva Convention, although in the end he reached a similar conclusion.

The 12 potential deportees can now note the significance of this ruling. [end recording]

Conditions Put on Agricultural Exports to EEC

TA131143 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] Israel will permit the agricultural cooperatives in the territories to organize the marketing of their members' agricultural produce to EEC countries without the intermediacy of AGREXCO. This decision, recently adopted by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, comes in the wake of the European Parliament's decision over a month ago to postpone the ratification of trade agreements between Israel and the EEC as a result of the events in the territories.

The possible dates and means of securing European Parliament ratification of the agreement were discussed in yesterday's meeting in Foreign Minister Peres' office, also attended by Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin; Israeli Ambassador to Belgium Avi Primor; and Yitzhaq Minervi, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general for economic affairs.

One of the more outstanding decisions made in the meeting concerned the removal of all the technical obstacles presented by Israel to prevent independent agricultural exports from the territories to Europe. The subject has been discussed by EEC and Israeli representatives since October 1986, and the EEC agricultural affairs commissioner, former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, visited Israel at the end of 1987 to discuss the subject.

The purpose of Israel's decision—although it has not been openly admitted—was to improve the strained atmosphere which followed the postponement of the ratification of Israel's agreements with the EEC.

After the meeting, the agriculture minister told HA'ARETZ that although he believes the Arab farmers will suffer from their separation from AGREXCO, he will soon notify the Arab elements, who had raised the issue of independent exports, of Israel's willingness to permit such exports, subject to several conditions.

The conditions posed by Israel prior to the approval of independent exports were conveyed to the heads of agricultural cooperatives in the West Bank in a meeting which took place 1 month ago between them and an Israeli interoffice team appointed for that purpose.

The conditions include approval of seasonal export plans, licensing by the Agriculture Ministry, quality supervision and spot checks, security checks as per security authorities' demands, and coordination between the independent exporters and the Agriculture Ministry.

Another subject raised at the meeting was the question of labels to be attached to the farmers' products. Israel accepts the possibility of their bearing the names of cities in the territories, such as "Ramallah," "Nabulus," "Gaza," etc.

The Arab entrepreneurs' reply was included in a document relayed to the Agriculture Ministry and to other bodies dealing with the matter. The document contains their answer to the five conditions:

They demand that the export licenses be issued for direct, long-term exports, excluding the need to apply for permits for individual shipments; that a guarantee be given that the licenses will not be arbitrarily revoked; that quality checks be done by local agricultural elements tied to Jordan, whose approval is acceptable to the EEC; that the coordination and security procedures, which they agree to, not become tools for bureaucratic delays and other difficulties; that the labels bear the names "West Bank" and "Gaza Strip."

Israel's answer to the Arab farmers will be relayed in the next few days. Minister Nehamkin has said that in principle, Israel no longer intends to bargain over technical details (which it has been doing for 18 months).

Shomron Briefs Knesset on Deployment, Fatalities

TA130806 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dvora Getzler]

[Excerpt] The IDF is working on the assumption that the Palestinian uprising in the territories will keep the army occupied at about the current commitment of manpower for the next three months, Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday.

Shomron, explaining why the number of Arab fatalities in the territories has been rising although the demonstrations against the army have abated somewhat, said that those who were being killed today were the hard-core activists who were coming into close confrontation with IDF soldiers.

In the past, he indicated, the army had been reluctant to open fire on masses of demonstrators among whom it was difficult to distinguish the real ring-leaders. That was much less the case today.

He expressed the hope that after the coming three months it might be possible to cut military manpower in the territories by some 30 per cent.

Privates and non-coms in the reserves would thus be doing up to 60 days of service this year, with reservist officers called up for as long as 67 days. "I know that that is a lot!" he commented. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Gazan Death From Tear Gas

TA131932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] A woman was asphyxiated by tear gas in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The 70-year-old woman was hurt while a demonstration was being dispersed, said Arab sources in the camp. In response, an IDF spokesman said that a doctor from Shifa' Hospital in Gaza examined her and determined that she had died of natural causes.

Arab sources in Gaza told our correspondent that 30 people were wounded by tear gas and rubber bullets and another 2 were wounded by shots during the same demonstration. The IDF spokesman said that there is no confirmation that the two were wounded by firearms, adding that he does not count those hurt by tear gas since some arrive at the hospital complaining that they were hurt by tear gas but are sent home after a few hours.

Salfit Municipality Disbanded

TA132002 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] This morning the security forces arrested 70 suspects in the town of Salfit, near the settlement of Ari'el in Samaria, wanted for participation in riots in the last few months. Salfit had recently declared itself a liberated territory, and the population appointed a local managing committee to replace the representatives of the Civilian Administration. Our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports:

[Begin recording] Inhabitants of the territories describe the town as Red Salfit, due to the large communist influence on the town. The town had recently been run by a joint committee of the communists and Fatah. The committee maintained cleanliness and provided services just as any ordinary municipality, except that it replaced the Civilian Administration.

Salfit, a town of 6,000 inhabitants, is a clean and orderly town. Graffiti on the walls are painted over, garbage is collected, and the erection of stone barriers is prohibited. Salfit has become the symbol of a liberated town which is well-organized and independent. The Civilian Administration objected to the idea. This morning large IDF forces entered the town, surprised the sentries, arrested some 70 suspects, and put the whole town under curfew. Surprise was complete, sentries were caught in their positions, and the honor of the residents of Salfit was hurt. [passage omitted]

The IDF feared that by showing that life can be orderly without the Civilian Administration, the example of Salfit would be emulated by the surrounding villages. This morning's operation was meant to disband the local committees running the town which had already shown some success. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on 13 Apr Incidents

TA141107 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] Gaza City—Two Palestinian teenagers were wounded yesterday when troops opened fire on a crowd of youths surging on an IDF position in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

The unrest in Jabalyah began in the early morning hours, when schoolgirls in an UNRWA school staged a demonstration and began chanting Palestinian slogans.

According to witnesses, troops arrived on the scene and entered the school, firing tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

Shortly afterwards, boys from the area joined a number of schoolgirls in a mass march in the direction of a central IDF position, which had also come under attack the day before.

Unable to deter the rapidly approaching crowd by other means, the soldiers manning the position opened fire at the legs of the demonstrators.

There were also demonstrations yesterday in 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street here, and in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, but the unrest was significantly less intense than on Tuesday, when there were riots to protest against the deportation of five Gazans.

Touring the Al-Shati' refugee camp yesterday, OC [Commanding Officer] Yitzhaq Mordekhay told camp notables that the IDF would continue to exercise the deportation policy "when circumstances dictate."

Mordekhay told reporters that the number of casualties from Tuesday's rioting had been exaggerated, and that the true figures were seven residents injured from blows, 10 injured by tear gas inhalation, and one by live ammunition.

Army sources said that in order to rule out asphyxiation an autopsy had been performed on Hasan Da'ud, the 21-year-old who died during Tuesday's disturbances. According to the sources, the pathological findings indicated that Da'ud had died of natural causes and not, as UN sources had reported, of tear gas inhalation. [passage omitted]

Relatively few incidents were reported in the West Bank yesterday, despite official concern about possible unrest in the aftermath of the deportation of three Palestinians from the area. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported other raids and arrests at the village of 'Arurah north of Ramallah, where local guards had been posted, and in Asirah al-Shamaliyah near Nabulus, where rioters clashed with troops Tuesday.

Troops clashed with rock-throwing youths at the Balatah refugee camp, and dispersed them with tear gas and rubber bullets, military sources said. Palestinian sources said one youth was wounded by gunfire, and a second was hit in the eye by a rubber bullet.

The Palestinian sources said a pregnant woman from Faw'arah near Hebron, hospitalized Tuesday after being overcome by tear gas, had miscarried. Military sources confirmed only that she had been hospitalized.

Another IDF reservist was sentenced yesterday to jail for refusing to serve in the territories. First Sergeant Yoha Yuval, 41, was sentenced to 21 days in jail. He was the third reservist to be jailed this week.

'Makeshift Bomb' Explodes

TA140649 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The blockade on the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip remains in force, after a makeshift bomb was activated there against an Israeli vehicle. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused in that incident.

The curfews and blockades on all other refugee camps in the Gaza Strip have been lifted. Our correspondents 'Ezra Yanuv and Asaf Ashkenazi report that the Gaza Strip is quiet this morning, and that most residents left for work.

IDF Fire Kills 1 in Nabulus

TA141347 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed in a clash in Nabulus today. An IDF force was attacked at noon with bricks and stones from several directions and from roofs in the Nabulus casbah. The lives of the soldiers were endangered, and they were forced to fire, killing a 24-year-old youth.

Two children were wounded today when the bus in which they were travelling near the settlement of Teqo'a in Judaea was stoned. The children were slightly wounded and were transferred to a local clinic.

Update on 14 Apr Incidents

TA141135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] IDF units this morning blocked several alleys in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm with barrels of concrete. Such measures are normally taken to block alleys which youths emerge from to throw rocks on the road. A curfew was imposed on the camp and Arab sources have reported that youths threw rocks at the soldiers.

In Tulkarm, tension was felt last night after an Arab youth was shot and wounded in the chest in the local refugee camp. The camp was placed under a curfew, which was lifted only this morning.

As is his wont recently, the IDF spokesman reported on the above incidents only after being asked about them specifically by the Voice of Israel.

Pamphlet No 13 set today as the day of a general strike in the territories to protest the mass detentions. The inhabitants of the territories heeded the call for a commercial strike, because commercial life is anyway virtually at a standstill all the time. Only some employees reported for work today. According to estimates, the rate stood at 60 percent in Hebron and Nabulus, while in Bethlehem it was lower. Janin workers left for their jobs in Israel as usual. Public transportation is irregular. In Ramallah and Bethlehem, the transportation strike is complete, whereas in other places it is partial.

The picture in the Gaza Strip is somewhat different. Most shops are open, with the exception of businesses in the city itself. Incidentally, the Hebron wholesale market has opened following the merchants' appeal to the Civilian Administration.

The blockade imposed last night on Dayr al-Balah after the explosion of the bomb continues. The curfew imposed on Al-Shati' in the wake of a riot 2 days ago has been lifted.

Today it was learned that the IDF used a vacant, unpopulated neighborhood near Nabulus, expropriated from the clerks union, to train soldiers in riot dispersal procedures and in the use of new deterrent measures, including tear gas and gravel. The district was expropriated approximately 10 days ago for the purpose of training, or so the union was informed. It is uninhabited, but several families that took up quarters there were asked to vacate it during the day.

New Measures 'To Curb' Unrest

TA141137 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] Gaza City—The Southern Command is considering new measures to curb violent unrest in Gaza Strip, military sources here confirmed yesterday.

Among the measures being weighed is curtailing family unification visits in summer. That step is thought by security authorities to bear enormous emotional significance in the Strip, since an estimated 100,000 Gazans have emigrated to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and elsewhere since Israeli rule began here in 1967.

Each summer, large numbers of Gaza emigres cross the Allenby Bridge to visit their families in the Strip. Local observers maintain that the visits have become an integral part of family life for many Gazans.

Rumours of new military steps have been circulating in Gaza for a number of days, following the appearance earlier this week of a leaflet bearing the signature of an IDF military governor. The leaflet, distributed in two southern Gaza towns, hinted at stringent punishments for residents of houses from which stones were thrown at troops.

The message was widely interpreted to mean that the houses would be destroyed or sealed, as has been the case with the homes of Palestinians identified as having attacked security personnel with petrol bombs.

Southern Command sources said yesterday that houses will not be demolished or sealed to punish stone throwers. But an order has been issued that if a house is used for rock-throwing at soldiers, the residents may be evicted and the building taken for military use.

Local Self-Rule Hindered

TA131234 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, and Shmu'el Tal]

[Excerpts] The local population in the territories does not have the technical ability to set up alternative self-rule frameworks. One of the reasons for this is because the Civilian Administration has tightened control over the area and is preventing the influx of funds there. The above assessment was made yesterday by Civilian Administration sources.

They pointed out that members of local councils have thus far not resigned and that no mayors have left their jobs despite threats. This, it is maintained, indicates that some parts of the population are pressuring the mayors

to stay on. Several policemen who had earlier resigned have recently returned to their jobs, but officially they are still on leave until the right time comes for their return. [passage omitted]

Many detentions were carried out in the West Bank in a bid to prevent the outbreak of riots following the decision to expel more individuals. Thus, detentions were carried out in the villages of 'Abwayn, Umm Safa, and Dayr Dibwan in Samaria and the Binyamin District.

The IDF recently prevented the escape of two detainees from the Ansar-3 detention facility in Qezi'ot in the Negev. As a result of this attempt, the IDF has increased guard duty at the installation and erected roadblocks several hundred meters from the entrance to the detention center.

The IDF has found out that local inhabitants in the territories have begun making bayonets, knives, daggers, and slingshots in clandestine workshops. Two days ago, when security personnel passed a house near Bethlehem, they heard the noise of tools being sharpened. They entered the building and caught five youths busy making bayonets.

Beginning last month, the standing force deployed in the territories was decreased somewhat in view of the fact that compared with the outset of the unrest, the incidents have calmed down. At the same time, IDF officers have instructed soldiers not to become complacent, pointing out that the situation is volatile and may change at any moment.

Editorial Sees U.S. 'Pressure' Key to Peace

TA121410 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
9 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Very Burdensome Legacy Bequeathed by Shultz"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has wound up his visit to the region and returned to his country. It has become evident that his repeated trips to the region have failed to produce any results with regard to advancing the peace process or aligning the viewpoints.

In his interview with Israeli television, Shultz admitted that there was no possibility that his efforts would bring about rapid results, adding that he will try to bequeath a good legacy to his successor.

Perhaps this is the most credible statement that Shultz has made during all these arduous trips. Therefore, we can only ask: With so many advisors and aides and the endless detailed reports, was Shultz unaware that the conclusion he reached would be inevitable?

Shultz knew the positions of the various parties as well as the difficulties facing each of these positions. Is it true then that Shultz believed he would be able to produce a miracle that might change or moderate these positions? Or did he want to prove, as he has always believed, that this problem has no solution?

In the past Shultz used to say that he would not intervene to advance the process unless the Arabs and Israel come to Washington after reaching a joint formula on a settlement. Why did Shultz then back down and choose this period in view of the fact that only a few months remain in his term as secretary of state?

Perhaps the "uprising" was an effective factor in motivating Shultz and the entire world to do something to resolve the conflict, but how can the deadlock be broken and progress be made toward a solution in view of the realities in the region?

In the past both Kissinger and President Carter proved in consecutive periods that the conflict cannot be resolved except by the application of pressure and active involvement with the parties. Shultz did not get involved despite Shamir's rejectionist and clear stance toward the U.S. initiative. On the contrary, he tried as much as he could to exonerate Shamir and to hint that it was the Arab positions that were inflexible.

We ask again: After Shamir's overt rejection of the initiative, how can Shultz insist that it is still alive and that he will bequeath a good legacy to his successor?

As long as Washington continues to support Israel regardless of its positions and practices, how can Shultz' efforts produce rapid results? If Washington wants to achieve a genuine peace in the region, it must act as a superpower that has important interests in all the countries of the Middle East, and must adopt an unbiased policy toward the parties.

In light of the statements made by Shultz, the visible indications are that the legacy Shultz bequeathes to his successor will be very burdensome.

Inner Cabinet Approves Navy Procurement Plan

TA131547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet has approved the Israeli Navy's procurement plan in full. The plan now goes into the operational stage.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that approval of this large-scale plan is crucial to the Navy's future. The ministers complimented Rear Admiral Avraham Shoshan, the Navy's commander, on the plan's presentation.

USSR's Trubilin Holds News Conference, Departs

JN130857 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Apr 88 p 3

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Amman—Nikolay Trubilin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and chairman of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society, has praised the high level of relations his country and Jordan have reached, especially after His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union last January and his meetings with Soviet officials, CPSU leaders, and leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

During a news conference at the Holiday Inn in Amman yesterday morning in the presence of the Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Trubilin pointed out that some European mass media are trying to distort the fruitful results of the important visit paid by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Moscow several days ago.

He said Soviet positions are identical with the Arab countries' positions, especially with those of Jordan and the PLO. Regarding reports carried by mass media that the Soviet Union asked 'Arafat to recognize Israel, he said: In light of the Soviet position since 1947-1948 on the need to establish two states in Palestine and since an Israeli state was established, a comprehensive and just peace should be achieved in the occupied Arab territories, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—including the establishment of an independent state—should also be recognized. These results can be achieved only through the convening of a fully-empowered international conference to be attended by all parties, including the PLO and the five permanent Security Council member-states.

Asked about the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel, Trubilin said that in light of his country's effective foreign policy to achieve understanding and coexistence among nations and eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the world, we believe in resolving regional conflicts and establishing cordial relations among all countries.

Regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk said the Soviet Union will resume these relations only if a comprehensive and just peace is established in the region and if Israel halts its aggression against the neighboring countries and recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Only then can such an issue be raised.

In addition, Trubilin said that the forthcoming superpower summit in Moscow will deal with the Middle East issue, adding: We will continue to pay attention to it. The evidence of this is that Soviet television and other media have been reporting to our people on the Palestinian uprising since it began in the occupied territories. This proves that our country and our leadership are taking an interest in the Middle East crisis, pointing out that the solution to the crisis does not depend only on the Soviet Union, but also on the unified Arab position and the U.S. position.

Regarding the scheduled visit to Amman and the region by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet ambassador said that it will take place in the near future and that it has nothing to do with any new Soviet initiative because there is no justification for such a new initiative.

Asked about relations between the Soviet Union and Jordan, Trubilin said that there is continued coordination on the various issues, especially the issue of convening an international conference with full powers that can secure a comprehesnive solution.

At the beginning of the news conference, Bahjat al-Talhuni, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, welcomed Trubilin and his delegation. Following the news conference, Trubilin left Amman for his country yesterday.

Paper Cited on Jordanian-Palestinian Talks

JN141037 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Amman—Jordan-PLO talks, described as highly important, begin in Amman today. The talks are aimed at looking into a new formula or agreement on joint Jordanian-Palestinian coordination compatible with the political developments following the uprising in the occupied territories and the international efforts for acheiving a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported today that a Palestinian delegation led by Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan arrived in Amman yesterday for this purpose. Palestinian sources told the newspaper that the meetings gain a special importance following 'Arafat's visit to Moscow and the constant improvement in the relations between Damascus and the PLO.

Al-Masri Urges EC To 'Intervene' With Israel

JN121235 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has called on the EC countries to immediately intervene with the Israeli occupation authorities to put an end to the repressive measures and inhuman practices against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories.

During his reception of the EC ambassadors to Jordan in his office today, Al-Masri affirmed that the measures taken by the Israeli military authorities against the steadfast inhabitants of the township of Bayta following the killing of an Israeli girl by a Jewish settler are

represented by demolishing houses, besieging the township, and launching mass arrests. He added that these measures are practiced daily against the Arab inhabitants.

He also stressed that the news blackout imposed by the occupation authorities conceals from the world public opinion the many crimes they commit daily against the Arab citizens under occupation. These crimes include demolishing houses, indiscriminate arrests, brutal torture, deportation, starvation campaigns, threats by the Israeli officials, and humiliation of citizens.

Al-Masri asked these countries to exert effective efforts within the framework of the EC and the international organizations and circles such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to halt these measures and extend support for the Arab citizens under occupation. He also briefed the EC ambassadors on the talks held by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with the Jordanian officials during his recent visit to the region. He also explained to them Jordan's position on the U.S. initiative to settle the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shultz Plan, 'Provocative' Statements Viewed

JN121758 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
12 Apr 88 p 11

[Article by Mahmud al-Sharif, chairman of AL-DUSTUR Board of Directors: "Spotlight on the Declaration of Principles: Jordan and the Shultz Initiative"]

[Excerpts] Since U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented his initiative during his first tour of the region in late February, Jordan has been eager to adopt a rational, responsible stand on it. It did not reject the initiative since it contains some positive elements worthy of consideration, study, and enhancement. However, Jordan did not accept the initiative as a whole, since it includes elements that cannot be accepted by the Arab side under any conditions.

Therefore, Jordan adopted an intelligent and responsible stand on the U.S. initiative from the beginning, especially since it knows that Israel must reject it. This is what actually happened when Yitzhaq Shamir made his famous announcement that the only two words he accepts from the U.S. initiative are the signature of the secretary of state: George Shultz.

George Shultz concluded his first tour and returned to Washington. Many statements with various inclinations on the initiative were heard from inside and outside the region. However, Jordan preferred to remain silent. Shultz returned on his second tour in early April. He said this time he wanted clear answers to his initiative, although some elements of his plan itself lack the required clarity. In Israel, Shamir insisted on rejecting the idea of an international conference and the principle of land in exchange for peace. These are two basic elements for any possible solution.

Nevertheless, the enemy prime minister did not present Shultz' initiative to his Council of Ministers so as to be able to continue to claim that (official) Israel did not reject the initiative, regardless of his personal rejection of it. This comic Israeli Government scenario can exist nowhere in the world but Israel.

However, Shultz came to Amman on 5 April and began talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al- Rifa'i, and Jordanian officials. During the talks, Shultz was surprised when the Jordanians asked him detailed questions. It was clear that these questions had not entered his mind, or he deliberately wanted to avoid talking about them. Questions like, for example: What do you mean by the Palestinian people's legitimate rights? How exactly do you interpret Resolution No 242 concerning the occupied territories? What exactly is the authority of an international conference? And so on.

Shultz left the meeting without the decisive answer he was awaiting, but a set of legitimate questions for which answers must be obtained before specifying Jordan's final stand on the initiative.

When Shultz met with the Jordanian newspapers' editors in chief at Amman military airport before boarding the plane for Damascus, he tried to conceal his apparent feelings of frustration with an appearance of challenge. He lectured the journalists on Israel's merits and rights. He repeated to them his old, known stand of rejecting the return to the 1967 borders, refusing to recognize the PLO "because it is a terrorist organization seeking the destruction of Israel," and rejecting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination "because this would mean the establishment of a Palestinian state, which does not have a sound economic basis," as if Israel itself has such a basis.

However, the journalists found that Shultz' statements lacked decorum in a wounded country, which shares feelings of indignation with its kinfolk in the occupied areas over the savageness of the occupation, which is supported by the United States. Also, the journalists found nothing new worthy of publication in these provocative statements and decided to spare the public from reading them. And this was what happened.

Shultz then flew to Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. He returned to resume his talks in Amman, although many expected that he would not return. At this time, Jordan decided that it was high time the course of the U.S. initiative was corrected and the seriousness of its propagators tested. Hence Shultz was handed the declaration of principles which were announced on 8 April.

This declaration constitutes neither an acceptance nor a rejection of Shultz' initiative. Rejection or acceptance must be based on the clarity of the picture, not merely in its broad outlines but in the tiniest details. Since most of the details of the initiative are vague and leave many questions unanswered, it cannot be accepted or rejected as a whole. [passage omitted]

By not accepting or rejecting Shultz' initiative, Jordan is trying through the declaration of principles to develop the initiative and turn it into a sound legal and practical course that will make it applicable.

Stemming from self-confidence and nonrelinquishment of principles and rights, Jordan will not close the doors of dialogue with the United States for the sake of peace and in the interests of the Palestinian people's rights, in as much as Jordan finds the United States ready for understanding and cooperation and brave in confronting Israeli intrasigence in the face of logic.

The Jordanian stand reflects this country's honorable pan-Arab stand. It also reflects his majesty the king's wise policy in dealing with the Palestinian issue and peace initiatives.

It is now up to the United States to decide the next step in its peace efforts. It can either check Israel's stubbornness and make it accept the principles and bases that must be accepted to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East, or, in cowardice, it can hesitate to play this role, as it has done many times before, thus being the only one responsible for terminating and burying Shultz' initiative.

AL-DUSTUR Condemns Deportation of Palestinians

JN120858 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
12 Apr 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "An Arrogant Measure"]

[Text] In another measure in extreme disregard of the UN Security Council resolutions, the Israeli military occupation authorities have deported eight Palestinian Arabs from their land and issued deportation orders against another 12 citizens. This is another step demonstrating Israel's disregard for human rights, not to mention its violation of international law in this regard.

It appears that the Israeli occupation authorities, which have carried out dreadful repressive practices against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories, and which have continued to be protected from any UN resolution of condemnation thanks to full U.S. cover, are capable of committing further violations and encroachments. This is as long as the U.S. allies can ignore these crime against humanity and attempts to prevent the international community from seeing the reality of the hateful, Zionist criminals.

However, we view this extremely arrogant Israeli measure as direct tangible evidence of the bankruptcy of the Israeli policy of repression and terrorism which has been violently implemented for about 4 months. At the same time, we believe that returning to the policy of deportation, which has previously failed to limit the expansion of popular resistance to the occupation, is the Zionist practical implementation of the theory of expelling the Palestinian people from their land and emptying the land of its lawful owners.

It is an irony worth deep consideration that Israel announces a return to the policy of deportation, which has received worldwide condemnation, in the wake of the official announcement of the date and venue of the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers in early June. This confirms extreme Israeli disregard for any possible Arab reaction, if this possible Arab reaction ever materializes.

While condemning Israel's recent measure of deporting a number of Palestinian Arab citizens over the border strip into Lebanon, and while condemning such a policy which was rejected even during colonialist times, we call on the UN Security Council and the five permanent UN Security Council member states, especially the United States, to act swiftly to abort this unjust Israeli measure and have the Israeli occupation authorities rescind their decision which violates the UN Security Council resolution that was adopted several weeks ago.

2 French Hostages May Be Freed in '24 Hours'

NC140950 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 14 (AFP)—Two French hostages held in Lebanon are to be freed in the next 24 hours, an anonymous caller claiming to speak for the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad told a Western news agency here.

"Because the countries of world imperialism have begun to rid themselves of their arrogance, we are going to take steps to release two French hostages in the next 24 hours," the caller said.

Islamic Jihad claims to have held three Frenchmen for the past three years: journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and two diplomats, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine.

The group ordinarily communicates with the press through written communiques, accompanied by photographs of the hostages it says it is holding. But it has on two occasions announced its intention to liberate hostages by telephone, in July 1986 when it freed Benjamin Weir, and in November 1986 when it released another U.S. citizen, David Jacobsen.

Amal Says Hizballah 'Behind' Kuwaiti Hijacking

NC131755 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Amal Movement issued a statement this afternoon criticizing Hizballah. It said Hizballah was behind acts of kidnapping, attacks in Lebanon, terrorist actions, and the hijacking of planes, including the Kuwaiti airliner. It also accused Hizballah of exploiting the name of the Islamic Republic to carry out evil deeds in order to create a schism between Shi'ites in Lebanon and Shi'ites in Iran.

Amal sources have reported that the movement has taken over social and health centers, Al-Shahid centers, and the Khomeyni aid centers in the Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah villages. The same sources added that committees have been formed to supervise and administer these centers. Injured Hizballah gunmen have been taken to the Tyre, Al-Azahrani, and Al-Nabatiyah hospitals.

Birri Aide Shot, Wounded in West Beirut

NC140841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Gunmen riding in an unidentified car fired at Minister Nabih Birri's escort Ahmad Harb, a former member of the internal security forces, while he was standing near a Syrian roadblock in the Karakul al-Druz area of West Beirut yesterday evening. He was hit by six bullets and taken to the American University Hospital in a very serious condition. The attackers fled in their car.

Aide Dies

NC140955 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Ahmad Harb, an aide to Minister Nabih Birri, has died of wounds he received last night near a Syrian roadblock in Karakul al-Druz in West Beirut. [passage omitted]

Resistance Groups Attack Lahd, Israeli Targets

NC131821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] A group of the National Resistance attacked a Lahd militia post on Kawkaba Hill last night. They engaged the post personnel for 30 minutes, wounding three.

According to our correspondent in western Al-Biqa', an agent militia group was defusing a land mine which had been discovered outside the town of Al-Surayrah when two antipersonnel mines went off, wounding two of the men. One of them later died from his wounds, according to sources in the occupied area. [passage omitted]

In another development, a group of the National Resistance Front detonated an explosive device under a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol in Al-Qantarah at dawn today. A military vehicle was damaged and its passengers were either killed or wounded.

Another resistance group fired a number of 107-mm shells at the Lahd barracks in Marj 'Uyun at noon today scoring direct hits.

New Libyan Envoy Comments on Relations

NC141027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpts] 'Ashur al-Furtas, Libya's new ambassador to Lebanon, visited the Foreign Ministry for the first time today and met with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk before presenting his credentials to President al-Jumayyil. After the meeting he said: We are now trying to find a new location for the mission as the old embassy building requires refurbishing, and that will take a long time. He stated that the new location will be in West Beirut and the embassy will be open as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Commenting on Lebanese-Libyan relations, he said they have been and will continue to be good. He added: They are now better than ever before. I am optimistic that they will develop and improve.

It will be recalled that the Amal Movement attempted to blow up the Libyan Embassy several times, especially in 1984, thus prompting the Libyan diplomats to move to East Beirut before finally leaving Lebanon altogether.

Syria Threatens Action If Hostages Not Freed
AU141051 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Paris, April 14 (AFP)—Syria gave an ultimatum Thursday to the group holding two French hostages in Lebanon to free them or face military action against their suburban Beirut stronghold, a well-placed Syrian source said.

Omrane Adham, a Paris-based businessman with close ties to the Damascus leadership, also told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Syria wanted all other foreign hostages in Lebanon released by the end of the month.

(An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the Islamic Jihad fundamentalists earlier told a Western news agency in Beirut that two French hostages were to be freed in the next 24 hours.)

Mr. Adham said Syrian troops had ringed the southern Beirut suburb where the hostages were reportedly held, and a senior Syrian military team, including two generals, had gone to the site Thursday to supervise the operation.

A total of 18 foreign hostages are currently listed as missing in Lebanon: nine Americans plus an Indian-born U.S. resident, three Frenchmen, two Britons, a West German, an Irishman and an Italian.

Mr. Adham said that Syria had told the Islamic Jihad holding the French hostages that if they were not released as soon as possible "military measures" would be taken against the southern suburb of the Lebanese capital.

"Syria seeks to obtain by the end of April the release of all the other Western hostages, particularly the English and Americans," said Mr. Adham.

The businessman has in the past served as a liaison for Paris with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad regarding the hostage question.

The reported Syrian move came on the 10th day of the hijacking drama involving a Kuwaiti airliner commandeered while on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait. The plane is currently in Algiers.

The hijackers and the Islamic Jihad have both linked any release of the French hostages to freedom for 17 prisoners jailed in Kuwait for terrorist attacks in the Gulf state.

The caller in Beirut announcing the imminent release of two French hostages said the move was because "the countries of world imperialism have begun to rid themselves of their arrogance."

Islamic Jihad claims to have held three Frenchmen for the past three years: journalist Jean-Paul Kauffman and two diplomats, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine. The caller gave no indication which two would be freed.

The group ordinarily communicates with the press through written statements accompanied by photographs of the hostages it says it is holding.

But it has on two occasions used the telephone to announce its intention to free hostages, in July 1986 when it freed Benjamin Weir, and in November 1986 when it released another U.S. citizen, David Jacobsen.

Paper Views Shultz Tours, Shamir 'Intransigence'
JN130940 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Washington and Shamir's Intransigence," the newspaper TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has visited the region three times and he is preparing for a fourth visit. Every time, he heard the same tune in Israel: the rejection of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the refusal to recognize any of the Palestinian people's rights.

To counter this, he heard the voice of just and right in the Arab capitals. This is because the Arabs do not demand more than the implementation of the international community's resolutions on the Palestine question and self-determination for the Palestinian people, which is a sacred right for all people.

Despite this, the U.S. secretary of state has continued to revolve in a vicious circle. He wants to convince Israel of the need to offer some concessions to the Arabs, and to convince the Arabs to accept few concessions, namely to relinquish their homeland and their vital interests. At the same time, he refuses to talk to the Palestinian people's representatives because Israel does not recognize the existence of the Palestinian people.

The paper adds: Shultz puts himself in a dead end in advance. However, a declaration of a clear and frank stand in harmony with the resolutions of the international community and the human principles, values, and known rights would allow the U.S. secretary of state to achieve success. This is if there was a true desire to achieve success regarding a just peace.

Afghanistan

4 Soviet Advisers Killed in Kabul Car Bomb Blast

BK140842 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP)—Four Soviet advisers were killed Monday [11 April] in a powerful car bomb blast in Kabul, rebel sources said Thursday.

The sources said that the bomb had been planted in a Soviet-made jeep with state registration parked near the Walid and Feyzalat shopping arcades in the fashionable Shahre Now area of the Afghan capital.

The device went off around 11.30 a.m., when the market was crowded, the sources said.

The powerful blast killed four Soviet advisers and an unspecified number of other people, they said, adding that the resulting fire gutted several shops.

There was no independent confirmation of the report whose release Thursday coincided with the signing in Geneva of an agreement on a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The rebels have rejected the accord and have vowed to continue fighting.

Najibullah Discusses Power Sharing, Soviet Aid

LD131925 Hamburg DPA in German 1817 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Hamburg, 13 Apr (DPA)—The present regime in Kabul is prepared to share power with the resistance fighters. However, only the National Assembly can decide on his own position as president, Afghan state and party leader Najibullah said in an interview with the West German television channel series "Focus" this evening.

"Our basic law provides for a multiparty and coalition government," he said. "We have suggested to the opposition forces that they share power. Twenty-eight ministerial and deputy ministerial posts, even the post of prime minister, are proposed for this. We have set only one condition—that they do not turn their weapons against their fellow countrymen and that they stop the war."

Najibullah replied evasively to the question of further Soviet arms supplies, saying that Soviet aid had not just started with the April Revolution of April 1977. "The USSR, as a good neighbor, can assist us in various spheres." Afghanistan's enemies attempt to divide the country, "but I would like to point out that our armed forces have the strength to defend the country's independence and territorial integrity."

Analysts Say Soviet Withdrawal 'Hazardous'

BK141010 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 14 Apr 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP)—The signing of the Geneva accord Thursday will involve Soviet troops in a hazardous withdrawal and spark more fighting between the Afghan belligerents, analysts here say.

They add that Kabul could eventually fall under the control of the resistance if the warring Afghan parties do not reach a compromise.

The seven-party mujahidin alliance has firmly rejected the accord to end Soviet intervention in Afghanistan which is due to be signed Thursday in Geneva by Pakistan, Afghanistan and the two superpowers.

They have refused any truce until the Soviet installed-regime is ousted and have expressed willingness to fight "until the last Soviet soldier is gone."

In recent months the rebels have received fresh supplies of heavy arms including 75 mm artillery pieces, rocket launchers, long-range mortars and anti-tank weapons.

Kabul has also boosted its stocks of ammunition, artillery, tanks and armoured vehicles, diplomatic sources said, adding that they would allow the Afghan Army to protect the 115,000 Soviet troops during their withdrawal.

Experts say the Soviet troop withdrawal will be hazardous, particularly from major cities such Herat, Jalalabad, and the southern city of Qandahar parts of which are controlled by the resistance.

"They want above all to avoid ambushes, encirclements and desertions in the Afghan Army," a military expert said.

A diplomat said: "The massacre of a hundred young Russian soldiers would spell disaster for the present leadership in the Kremlin."

According to Washington the Soviet command sent 15,000 combat troops to Afghanistan last week. Soviet troops have also relieved the garrison town of Gardeyz, south of here, which had been cut off by the mujahidin.

Soviet garrisons have begun moving out of small towns, and will next evacuate medium-sized towns like Khowst, south of here, followed by larger bases such as Bagram and Konduz and finally the big cities such as Qandahar.

The Soviets need to maintain control of the north, especially the strategic but vulnerable Salang road linking Kabul with the Soviet border.

In an emergency Moscow could send troops and air cover from the massive Soviet military base at Termez, close to the border with northern Afghanistan.

Moscow, which has decided to withdraw 50,000 servicemen in the first three month withdrawal period, will likely continue to send combat troops to protect its rear, especially if the rebels launch an offensive, experts said.

Most U.S. experts believe the Kabul regime could resist the rebels for a maximum of one year after the Soviet troop withdrawal.

But a civil war could end if the Kabul leadership reaches a compromise with the mujahidin, the analysts said. With this aim in mind the United Nations peace negotiator Diego Cordovez is to try and forge agreement between the two sides on forming an interim coalition government in Afghanistan.

The Pakistan-based mujahidin leadership, who did not participate in the Geneva peace talks, have announced the line-up of their own Islamic government for Afghanistan and have rejected the inclusion in a future Afghan Government of any of "the atheists of the puppet regime in Kabul."

"The seven mujahidin parties are divided between Islamic fundamentalists and moderates but it seems they have agreed for the time being to fight together until the departure of the communists from Kabul," an expert said.

The mujahidin are to stage demonstrations in Islamabad Friday and in the northwestern city of Peshawar Saturday to protest Pakistan's signing of the Geneva accord.

Refugees in Iran Protest Geneva Agreements
LD131832 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—A large group of Afghan refugees staged a sit-in in front of the United Nations office here today in protest to the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan which is to be inked by Pakistan and the Kabul regime tomorrow (Thursday).

At the end of the demonstration, called by the Afghanistan Islamic coalition, a resolution was issued saying that Afghanistan's future should be determined only by the Afghan Muslims. "Any accord between Pakistan and the usurper Kabul regime on the issue is illegal," it added.

Afghan Muslims will continue their armed struggles and Islamic jihad even after the withdrawal of the occupying Soviet troops from the Muslim country, said the resolution.

It termed the U.S.-Soviet agreement on Afghanistan as a "United plot of the arrogant front not only against the oppressed Afghan people but the worldwide Islamic revolution."

The statement also stressed that inclusion of any elements of the treacherous Afghan communist parties in a provisional government is a treason to the blood of the 1.5 million Afghan martyrs.

"We condemn any government in which revolutionary Muslims, both Shi'ite and Sunni, are not present," the resolution said.

'Extremists' Attack Mosques, Residential Areas
LD131755 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that extremist elements using heavy weapons fired today on the homes of our compatriots in Pashshad village, Sarkani district, Konarha Province. One woman was martyred and another woman and a child were injured. As a result of this barbaric action, 8 houses were set on fire, and 2 mosques and 10 homes were damaged.

According to another report from Zabol Province, its capital city, Qalat, became the target of extremists' surface-to-surface missiles on the night of 12 April. As a result, 2 people were injured, and 1 mosque and 10 houses were seriously damaged.

'Extremists' in Helmand Crushed by Border Guards
LD132109 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The military section of BIA reports that an armed extremist group who, after crossing the border, intended to wage war and bloodshed in the surroundings of Darveyshan District, Helmand Province, were recently crushed by the border guards.

The report adds that as a result of this action 10 light machineguns, 1 rocket launcher, and 1 heavy machinegun, together with thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized by the border guards.

Briefs

Soviet-Donated Propaganda Units

The Soviet Ministry of Culture has donated five mobil cultural and propaganda units worth more than 12 million afghanis to the State Committee for Culture of the Republic of Afghanistan. The documents concerning these units, consisting of five vehicles, were handed over today during a ceremony to deputy head of the State Committee for Culture by Kamrofski, a secretary in the USSR Embassy for cultural affairs. They were gratefully accepted. A BIA correspondent reports that the mobile cultural units, equipped with audio-visual facilities, such

as generators, radios, loud-speakers, film projectors, amplifiers, and so on, will be used by the State Committee for Culture to broadcast cultural and propaganda programs. [Text] [*LD140143 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Apr 88*]

Bangladesh

Indian Ambassador's Remarks Draw Rebuke

BK140055 Hong Kong AFP in English 0035 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 13 (AFP)—Bangladesh on Wednesday censured the Indian high commissioner for his reported comments in Calcutta on Bangladeshi tribal refugees now in neighbouring Tripura State.

High Commissioner I.S. Chadha was quoted by Indian radio as saying Sunday that the refugees in Tripura camps "are not willing to return to their homes in Chittagong Hill Tracts because of lack of a sense of security."

The remarks "are unfortunate, apparently preconceived and uncalled for," Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam told a news briefing here Wednesday.

He said the Indian diplomat was in regular contact with authorities here and kept informed of Dhaka's steps to resolve the tribal problem and take back the Bangladeshi Chakma refugees who fled in the wake of tribal insurgency in 1985.

"In the backdrop of these facts, it comes as a bit of a surprise that the high commissioner avails the earliest opportunity outside Bangladesh to disclose his anxiety and thoughts that he did not find it necessary to share with the authorities concerned of the host government," the foreign secretary said.

He said the remarks, if true, "are inconsistent with the norms of diplomatic conduct and the role a host government would expect from the representive of a friendly country."

Officials at the Indian High Commission were not available for comment.

India

Defense Minister Addresses Troops in Siachen

BK131609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has invited India's defense secretary to visit Islamabad for the next round of talks on Siachen. This was disclosed by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, in New Delhi today. He said the two governments are in touch to decide the dates for the talks.

The AIR special correspondent, Harish Avasti, reports that the visit may take place after Parliament's debate on the budgetary demands of the Defense Ministry.

Mr Pant's disclosure came at the end of his daylong visit to the Siachen Glacier area. Addressing jawans [soldiers] there, Mr Pant said India wants friendship with all her neighbors. If they extend their hand of friendship, we will go more than half way to grasp it. But if they indulge in any mischief, they will get a befitting reply.

The minister praised the high morale of the Indian troops stationed in the difficult terrain and said the nation is proud of them. He said the government will give top priority to provide them the most modern equipment and material to cope with the conditions there.

Mr Pant said freedom and unity of the nation are paramount. It is, therefore, essential that top priority be given to modernizing our Armed Forces.

Our correspondent reports that as the minister finished speaking, the ever vigilant field guns of the artillery unit went into action after observing some activity by Pakistani troops in the Siachen Glacier area.

AFP: Attempt To Disrupt Visit

BK140055 Hong Kong AFP in English 0029 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Indian troops fired to prevent an alleged Pakistani attempt to disrupt a visit by the defence minister to the disputed Siachen border area on Wednesday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. It quoted an unidentified senior Army officer as saying Indian gunners opened fire "to preempt any mischief" after forward posts had sighted enemy movement.

"This is an every day event in this area for the past eight years," the officer told PTI and reporters accompanying Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant.

The news agency did not report any casualties.

It said Mr Pant, undeterred by the alleged attempt, visited most of the forward posts in the Himalayan glacier area in remote Kashmir and spoke to the troops there.

Indian and Pakistani troops fought a major gunbattle in the strategically situated Siachen in September in which more than 100 Pakistanis were reported dead.

Mr Pant said the defence secretaries of India and Pakistan would meet next month in Islamabad to discuss the Siachen dispute, PTI said.

Two rounds of talks have already been held between the two countries on the Siachen dispute, but no agreement has been reached.

The two countries have fought wars over disputed Kashmir in 1947, 1965 and 1971.

Gandhi Comments on Issues Before Far East Tour

BK140644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister today expressed India's optimism that the signing of the Afghan accord would lead us to peace in the region. He, however, expressed his dissatisfaction over the continued supply of arms to the Afghan rebels. He was talking to newsmen at Delhi airport before emplaning for Tokyo on a 3-day official visit to Japan and Vietnam.

On Pakistan's clandestine arms supply to terrorists in India, Mr Gandhi said there are recent incidents while Pakistan Rangers gave covering fire to groups of terrorists who crossed over. [sentence as heard]

On relations with Japan, Mr Gandhi said we look forward to a very wide cooperation. The prime minister and his entourage, which included the minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, were seen off by a large number of central ministers and other dignitaries.

Asserts Siachen Part of Country

BK140754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The prime minister has asserted that the Siachen Glacier is part of India and will remain so. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was talking to newsmen at Delhi Airport before emplaning for Tokyo on his 3-day official visits to Japan and Vietnam.

Referring to the Afghan accord being signed in Geneva today, Mr Gandhi hoped that Soviet troops will move out as envisaged in the accord.

Mr Gandhi expressed dissatisfaction over the continued supply of arms to the Afghan rebels. He was sure that all the arms are not going to Afghanistan.

On Pakistan's clandestine arms supply to terrorists in India, Mr Gandhi said there are recent incidents when Pakistan rangers gave covering fire to groups of terrorists crossing over to India. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Discussions in SRV To Include Cambodia

BK131126 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Commentary by H.N. Kaul]

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, flies to Tokyo tomorrow, Thursday, for little over 1 day's visit and on his return stops over at the Ho Chi Minh City for 6 hours. The occasion for Mr Gandhi's visit to Japan is provided by the Festival of India, which he will inaugurate. [passage omitted]

The stopover of Mr Gandhi at the Ho Chi Minh City will further the off-the-stage confabulations on a Kampuchean settlement in which India has taken a quiet but important part. India and Vietnam are close friends and both the Ho Chi Minh government [as heard] and Prince Norodom Sihanouk—a key figure in the Kampuchean issue—have welcomed Indian initiative, and suggestions have been made to hold talks in New Delhi or Paris.

Mr Gandhi is likely to probe the Vietnamese whether India could play the role of supervising withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea and also ensure that elections in that country are held without outside interference.

India, it may be recalled, played a key role in 1950's in the settlement of the Indochina imbroglio and many Asian countries have expressed their desire that India take up a similar role now.

Sikh Students Federation Factions Dissolved

BK131259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] high priest, Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rhode, has announced that both the factions of the All India Sikh Students Federations have been dissolved following the move for unity. A five-member ad hoc committee with Jathedar Gurdip Singh as convener has been set up for running the affairs of the unified federation. Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rhode was addressing a religious congregation in connection with the Baisakhi [harvest month] celebrations at Takht Damdama Saheb in Talwandi Sabo in Bhatinda District today.

125 'Extremists' Arrested in Bihar

BK131320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] In Bihar, police have rounded up 125 extremists and unearthed two gun factories in a major crackdown during the last 10 days. The arrests were made from Palamau, Jahanabad, Nalanda, Rohoas, Hazaribagh, Gaya, Aurangabad, Patna and Nawadah Districts.

The gun factories were found at Rampur and Kardiha villages under Gadwa subdivision of Palamau District. The state government has decided to launch both long- and short-term measures to combat terrorism. Police will be given sophisticated weapons.

Pro-Moscow Party Restores Ties With PRC

BK120630 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Relations between the small pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Chinese Communist Party have been restored after a 26-year freeze, a CPI spokesman said here Tuesday.

A five-member CPI delegation returned Monday from a two-week visit to China which formalised the restoration of ties, the spokesman said.

Relations between the two parties were frozen following the 1962 border war between India and China. The last time a CPI delegation visited China was in 1959, when Sino-Indian relations began to sour.

The CPI spokesman said the restoration of ties between the two communist parties had been under discussion for almost a year.

"It was felt that differences between the two countries were being gradually ironed out and relations were becoming more congenial," he said.

"Despite some differences, it was felt that party-to-party relations should be re-established on the basis of understanding and non-interference in each other's internal affairs," he added.

The CPI currently claims a membership of 445,000, and holds power only as a junior partner in two Left-Front state governments led by the stronger CPI-Marxist, or CPI-M, which was formed in 1964 after a split in the Indian Communist movement.

Iran

Khomeyni, Tehran Clergy Exchange Letters

LD141215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Members of the central council of Tehran's militant clergy sent a letter to the imam of the ummah referring to his holiness the imam's agreement to the council's formation and activity. The council thanked the imam for his holiness's monthly financial assistance to the militant clergy.

The letter also refers to the motive behind the creation of the new organization of militant clergy, which is based on proper intervention in social and political issues and on strengthening of the system of the Islamic Republic and the fate of the Islamic Revolution. The letter says: The commitment and objective of these activities by the combative clergy are to follow the principles and policy line of the revolution, which the great leader has stressed at several times, particularly in last year's hajj message and the subsequent letters and messages and also in the description of pure Mohammadan Islam and its distinction from American Islam.

Another part of the letter says: Because the possibility exists that some individuals might think of this split and formation of the new system and organization as a sign of discord and division and that some uninformed individuals might exploit it as a propaganda tool against unity—which his holiness has always stressed—we deemed it necessary to bring the subject to your holiness's attention, so that no steps are taken which your holiness might consider unwise. We were informed of your holiness's agreement and satisfaction; and later on, in order to reflect this agreement and satisfaction in the mass media, we asked for your holiness's permission again and you graciously gave that permission too. And the issue was announced by the media. Once again, in order to become more certain of your holiness's agreement, we sought permission to participate in the third Islamic Majlis elections, and you kindly expressed your approval of this organization's activity while recommending that candidates not be introduced for areas outside Tehran.

The reply of his holiness the imam is as follows: In His exalted name. To their eminences hojjaj ol-eslam and the militant clergy of Tehran: May your blessings continue. The process of the issue is as you mentioned in your letter. Branching off from an organization in order to express an independent opinion and forming a new organization does not mean discord. Discord appears at a time when, God forbid, an individual insults others in order to advance his own views. However, thanks be to God, on the basis of the knowledge that I have about the clergymen involved in affairs of the revolution, such an event will not take place. I pray for you and all those whose hearts beat for the dear Islam. And I beseech Almighty God to grant success to you gentlemen. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 25 Farvardin 1367 [14 April 1988]

Bomb Dismantled at Tehran Bus Terminal

LD131833 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—A relatively strong bomb was discovered and dismantled by security forces at a bus terminal in west Tehran Wednesday morning. An informed source at the Ministry of (Security) Information blamed the Iraqi regime for the bombing attempt. He said the Baghdad regime was desperately

attempting, through its spies and counterrevolutionary groups, particularly the Monafeqin (MKO) to create a state of panic among the people and pressure them psychologically.

These enemy attempts, he said, have been coupled with constant missile and air attacks on Iranian cities. The security official further said that investigations to identify and punish these 'mercenary agents' are underway.

Larijani Interviewed on Outcome of UN Talks

LD131348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Larijani, could you tell us about the talks you had at the United Nations? In general, how would you assess them?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our talks at the United Nations with the secretary general were based on two main premises. One was the so-called implementation proposal of the secretary general, which he discussed with officials when he was in Tehran. The second premise concerned the kinds of measures, including effective, punitive measures, which the Security Council must take to prevent the Iraqi regime from using chemical weapons and attacking residential areas. These two topics were the main points of the discussions. Regarding the secretary general's implementation proposal, we emphasized and clarified all aspects of the matter based on the following: No one should imagine that this proposal or any other could be used as a means to rescue the aggressor. The aggressor should be named and should be punished.

The key to the success of any proposal is that it must be based on justice. The first requirement of justice is that the aggressor should be identified, named, and punished. We emphasized that the obstacles to the proposal's progress are precisely this: On the one hand, the Iraqi regime today thinks that the implementation proposal is the same as Resolution No 598 or any other resolution. It needs to follow a path by which it can rescue itself. This is not possible. On the other hand, the United States and some other countries think that political proposals could be used to apply pressure on Iran.

You will note that the international pressures against us in the past several months were accompanied by pressures coming from Iraq in the form of attacking residential areas and so forth. This shows a kind of collaboration at work. All this springs from the idea that if we are under pressure, our positions will weaken or we will surrender. We have made it clear to them that this idea is wrong. Actually, we have demonstrated that if justice is the basis and if the objective is not to rescue the aggressor, then talks could progress. If the Security Council does not proceed along the path of justice, then our fighters will follow this path with all their power.

Regarding Saddam's war crimes, in the past few weeks we witnessed new dimensions of these crimes. Saddam's regime has deployed chemical weapons several times before. This time, it deployed newer weapons and more importantly, against innocent civilians, against its own people. Saddam's regime has committed a massacre and a massacre is itself a crime, in addition to the kind of massacre that has taken place. We pointed out that if you do not prevent the use of chemical weapons today, non of the world's cities will be immune in the future. It is necessary that effective measures be carried out against Saddam and that he should not be merely condemned.

We then strongly criticized the Security Council for not doing anything effective in this connection. We said: If the Security Council cannot take any steps vis-a-vis this violation of international regulations... [Larijani changes thought] And, of course, it is dutybound as, in accordance with the UN Charter, the breaking of international laws and agreements is a threat to international peace and security. Moreover, one of the first duties of the Security Council is to take some serious measures in this connection. If it cannot do anything about this, then how can you expect it to resolve more important problems? We also talked in detail about some of the uncertainties that our positions have generated on the international scene and we pointed to these threats and difficulties—irrelevant difficulties—which exist. We explained to them our general positions from all aspects.

As for the future of these talks, some problems have come up, none of which is related to Iran. In other words, the UN secretary general has no problems in talking with Iran. The first problem is the Iraqi regime's incorrect insistence [talaqi]; the aggressive Iraqi regime insistes on finding a way to save itself. It believes political negotiations or a political solution are a means to rescue it. This is the first problem and it is not possible to solve it. The objectives of a political or military solution are to impose justice and nothing else.

The second problem involves the positions adopted by countries like the United States and others of its ilk within the Security Council. They do not desire peace and security; they want to take revenge against our revolution and create ways to apply pressure on us. This too is not possible, that is, even if they succeed in increasing pressure against us, this will not change our position. Our nation is standing steadfast and is resisting and will succeed along this path. These are the two chief problems facing the secretary general.

Khamene'i Discusses Issues With Montazeri

LD131542 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, April 13, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i met with future leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in this holy city here today. Discussed in the meeting were important issues of the country.

Meets With Clerics in Qom

LD131756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] We begin our news report with a dispatch from our colleague on President Khamene'i's trip to Qom:

[Unidentified correspondent] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and head of the Supreme Defense Council, attended a meeting of clerics and missionaries from around the country today and discussed various dimensions of publicity jand its role in strengthening the Islamic Revolution. The ceremonies were set up through the joint cooperation of the management of the Qom seminary and the Imam's representative in the IRGC to review the latest war developments and important national issues. They were held in the presence of Qom Friday Imam Ayatollah Meshkini, who is also president of the Council of Experts; seminary lecturers; deputy representatives of the imam in the IRGC; and clerics and missionaries in Dar al-Shafa' school.

President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i noted in a speech the importance of publicity for expanding the culture of the revolution across the country and said: Revolutionary and Islamic values needs the support of publicity and culture in order to (?offer and teach) philosophy of [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The head of the Supreme Defense Council continued his speech by describing the goals of international oppression in opposing the Islamic Revolution in Iran and stressed that the colonialists are afraid of a resurgence of Islam and the fruition of holy values. He said: The colonialism that was afraid of a dormant and silent Islam is now terrified of an Islam that is operating as a social system with its powerful presence in international arenas. It is now trying to stem this sweeping movement. He added: Regional reactionaries do not stop their support for Iraq, and international circles and societies, under superpower pressure, avoid admitting Iran's just position because of the danger that is threatening the foundations of colonialism and oppression. In truth, the cultural, political, and economic missiles that are fired at our nation by international oppression are defensive actions in the face of the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Receives University Chancellors

LD132237 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i received university chancellors from throuoghout the country, here today.

At the meeting, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi, said that state universities and other higher education institues admitted 65,000 fresh students this year, up by 20,000 as compared to the last year's figure. Farhadi also informed the president that at present there are 85 masters and 55 Ph.D. courses at various Iranian universities.

Chancellor of "Amir Kabir" technical university Dr. Salimi, who also spoke at the meet, said "We are proud that our universities are continuing research activities even under the ongoing Iraqi missile and air attacks."

He also noted that all universities have prepared themselves for a full-scale war, adding that this move is a heavy blow on global arrogance.

Salimi, referring to the role of university processors in designing military projects and manufacturing sophisticated weapons, said "Our message to the world is that we are quite able to produce a variety of sophisticated arms."

In response, President Khamene'i terming the Ba'thist regime's missile attacks on Iranian cities as an indication of its acute misery, noted that both Baghdad and its supporters have resorted to such internationally-condemned criminal acts in a bid to pressure the Islamic Republic.

Elsewhere in his speech, Khamene'i stressed tha Iranian universities should operate with full capacity and should not be closed even for a single day.

Khamene'i also noted that while the capitalists, the reactionaries, the cartels, the trusts and other arrogant powers have ganged up against world Islamic movement to defend their so-called interests "we should not abandon the fronts."

Majlis Speaker Warns Against Chemical Warfare

LD132118 Tehran IRNA in English 2036 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today warned the world against the repeated Iraqi use of chemical weapons. "We hope our defence will be so strong that we will not be forced to use chemical arms," he noted, adding that if Iran should resort to chemical arms one day then it would not be responsible for its consequences.

The speaker refuted an Iraqi claim that the Islamic Republic has used chemical arms, saying that if Iran is forced to use chemical arms one day it is brave enough to admit it.

Speaking to personnel of construction Jihad and a group of inventors and innovators from Esfahan here, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said if there had been an awaken conscience in the world it should have put Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn on trial like Hitler for his criminal bombardment of Halabjah.

He said the Islamic Republic is facing enemies which are not committed to any principle and for this reason "we should equip ourselves with defensive weapons."

The Majlis speaker who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that "hypocrite" Western and Eastern powers with their huge arsenals of chemical weapons are supplying the Iraqi regime with necessary techniques and raw materials to manufacture toxic arms.

The superpowers may even condemn the use of chemical weapons but they are merely paying lip services and are both telling lies, the speaker noted.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also held the superpowers responsible for manufacturing and selling chemical weapons saying they would not be ashamed of using these arms if they deem it necessary.

The imam's SDC representative, saying that Saddam's crime in chemically bombing Iraqi muslim people is not restricted to Halabjah, noted that Baghdad has subjected Kurdish villages in northern Iraq to its chemical attacks for months in a bid to get rid of dissident Kurds.

Kurds Ask Al-Qadhdhafi To Condemn Iraq

LD131546 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 13, IRNA—Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) called on the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi today to condemn Iraq's Ba'thist regime for its chemical bombardment of Halabjah Kurdish town.

The PUK, in its message, said while African, Asian, European and American countries have denounced the gruesome Iraqi crime, Arab and Muslim countries except Islamic Iran have kept mute silence over the tragedy. "This crime is aimed at annihilating the Kurdish people," said the message.

It said the PUK expects the Libyan leader to "stretch his helping hand" towards victims of this massacre and condemn the Iraqi regime.

Musavi Sends Message to Greek Counterpart

LD131703 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, in a message to his Greek counterpart Andreas Papandreou, thanked Athen's positive stand on the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

In his message, Musavi expressed hope that more positive and practical steps be taken by other countries and international bodies, especially European countries, in order to prevent the repetition of such crimes which violate all international accords and regulations.

Musavi's message also emphasised on strengthening of bilateral ties, and noted that independent stands and policies of the Greek Government concerning incidents such as the provocative presence of foreign troops in the Persian Gulf, draws an appropriate perspective for cooperation of the two countries on the international scenes.

Air Routes, Oil Agreements Signed With Benin

LD131110 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Benin's Minister of Commerce, Crafts and Tourism Sule Dankoro left here today after signing an agreement for expansion of bilateral relations in various areas. Dankoro who had lead a delegation from his country was seen off at the airport by Iranian Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya.

In an interview before departure, Dankoro expressed surprise that the people here continue their routine life despite Iraqi missile attacks. He also called for further expansion of mutual relations.

Meanwhile, Seyyed Kya said that Dankoro supported Iran's stand in the imposed war and denounced Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical weapons and announced that regime as "aggressor".

Primary agreements were reached for establishing regional flights of Islamic Republic Airlines (Iran Air) between African cities which was requested by the delegation, he said. Seyyed Kya added that the two countries also agreed on the sale of Iranian oil to Benin.

He said that Benin, like the Islamic Republic of Iran, is committed to anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist and anti-racist policies, and that their identical outlooks towards the major world issues were reflected in the agreement signed between the two countries.

The two countries also expressed willingness to expand technical cooperation in transport industries and exchange experts in educational services and in the fields of road construction, railways, aviation and technical areas.

Mohtashemi Holds News Conference on Elections

LD131437 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Report on news conference held by Interior Minister Mohtashemi on the third elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly with unidentified correspondents; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] With the ending of the vote counting for the third elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Interior Minister Mohtashemi described the results of the elections this morning in a news conference with radio and television correspondents. At first, the interior minister referred to the way the elections were held and said: The elections for the third Majlis were held under conditions when less than 2 hours before the start of nationwide polling, more than 50 towns and villages, one of which was the great city of Tehran, were subjected to missile and air attacks by the Zionist Iraqi enemy. Along with this bestial act by the Iraqi regime, months ago we also witnessed foreign media and Zionist mouthpieces from the East and West creating a poisonous atmosphere against the Islamic Revolution and the elections in a vain attempt to disrupt and defeat the elections.

On the other hand, along with those moves, the internal mercenaries of world arrogance, including the minigroups and parties whose propaganda deviated from the order, boycotted the elections. This was also another conspiracy which met with a major defeat. These conspiracies were not aimed solely against the Majlis elections and against the sacred institution of the Majlis. On the contrary, the conspiracies were aimed against the entire system and against the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The interior minister added: Despite the extensive scale of this move by world arrogance and their internal mercenaries on the one hand, and the move by Saddam's regime and the intensification of the war of the cities on the other, we witnessed the solid participation of the nation. The elections for the third Islamic Consultative Assembly 10 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution were held in a most satisfactory way. The results of these elections could also be regarded as a referendum for the Iranian system and the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Comparing the Islamic Revolution with other revolutions of the world, the interior minister said: In other countries of the world, a few years after the revolution the people lose their original zeal and enthusiasm and become indifferent toward their revolution. However, these elections once again proved to the world that the Iranian nation has continued to maintain its revolutionary zeal, enthusiasm, and fervor of the first days of the revolution and they support their Islamic Revolution.

Continuing his news conference, Mr Mohtashemi referred to the aim of the resumption of the war of the cities by the Zionist Iraqi regime prior to the holding of the elections and said: The aim behind the start of the war of the cities was purely for the sake of weakening the morale of the people and of forcing them to leave the cities, thus minimizing the number of votes so that when the results were announced it would appear that the people had lost interest in the Islamic Revolution. However, it is natural that the imam's recent message, in which he said that the elections should be held on the appointed time, delivered a mighty blow to world arrogance. These elections demonstrated that the Iranian people still support their Islamic Revolution and their revolutionary leadership.

Continuing his news conference Mr Mohtashemi added: The point to bear in mind is that the elections for the third Islamic Consultative Assembly were different from our past experiences. In the past, the world witnessed the support of the people for their Islamic Revolution within the context of demonstrations and marches by millions of people. It is natural that those participating in the demonstrations did not have a definite number. Therefore, Western media very easily distorted the number of people who took part in the marches and gave a figure of tens of thousands instead of millions. However, on 19 Farvardin 1367 [8 April 1988] the elections for the third Islamic Consultative Assembly were held under conditions which demonstrated the people's solid support with the help of figures and numbers.

Referring to the fact that the message of the imam of the ummah had an important effect upon the increase in the number of votes and delivered the greatest political blow to world arrogance, the interior minister said: The elections for the third Islamic Consultative Assembly were not only the healthiest elections in Iran, they were even the healthiest elections of all countries where parliamentary elections are held.

Continuing his news conference, Mr Mohtashemi described the presence of the officials in charge of elections in cities and villages, the establishment of security throughout the country—which was unprecedented—and the fact that the elections were held in such a healthy atmosphere as special features of the elections for the third Islamic Consultative Assembly.

He then stated that in the elections we witnessed the greatest popular participation after the Islamic Revolution and said: In the first elections 10,833,843 persons took part; in the second elections 15,815,986 persons; and in the third the total number of votes cast was 16,988,799 votes.

Concluding his news conference Mr Mohtashemi announced: The second round of the Majlis elections will be held on the 23 Ordibehesht [13 May 1988] simultaneously with Jerusalem Day.

I would like to add that the latest results of the midterm elections for the Assembly of Experts, held in four provinces of the country, were announced by the interior minister this morning as follows:

Province	Total Votes Cast	Elected Candidate	Votes Gained
Ilam	153,284	(Mohammad Taqi Morvarid)	94,814
Khorasan	1,632,977	(Mohammad Va'ez'Aba'i-Khorasani)	76,312
Esfahan	1,049,956	(Mohammad Baqer Shari'ati)	526,872
Khuzestan	749,576	(Hasan Hemmati-Moqaddam Davarzan, also known as Hemmati-Khorasani)	655,510

13 Apr Cabinet Session Reviews New Operation

LD131312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The cabinet met today. According to a report from the Central News Unit, during today's session, after reviewing the main domestic and foreign events, cabinet members were briefed on reports of the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operation, which was launched in the Panjwin sector by the army of Islam.

Mr Khatami, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, presented a report to the cabinet on the meeting between hajj officials and the leader of the revolution, and his holiness's instructions. The cabinet members decided on the plan to dispatch 150,000 pilgrims to the holy house of God and to even more gloriously celebrate this divine duty.

Mr Velayati, foreign affairs minister, presented a report on his recent trip to Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, and said that the objective of this trip was to exchange views with the officials of the friendly Persian Gulf littoral states on international developments and to inform them of the situation on the battlefronts and about the gains of the victorious "Val-Fajr-10" operations. He also described to them the dimensions of Saddam's crimes in deploying chemical weapons and the continuation of the war of the cities.

The cabinet members continued their debate on the regulations of the organization in charge of urban land and ratified 13 more articles of these regulations.

Afterward, Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of providing assistance to the Iraqi Kurdish guests who left their homes and sought refuge with the Islamic Republic of Iran so as to remain immune from the tyranny of the Iraqi criminal regime and the air raids and chemical attacks of that regime, presented a report on the steps taken to house these refugees and to meet their essential requirements. The government, while making some decisions to overcome their problems, with the cooperation of all executive organs, stressed the need to create a healthy living environment for these guests of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati Reports on Recent Tour

LD131630 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations of the Iranian combatants as well as important issues of the country were reviewed in a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today.

During the session, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reported on his recent visits to Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, which he said were aimed at briefing friendly Persian Gulf states on the developments of the Iraqi-imposed war, Iran's recent "Val-Fajr-10" operations, Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons and Baghdad's continuation of its war of cities.

Later, Culture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami reported to the cabinet on the visit of Hajj officials to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, and Imam Khomeyni's guidelines in this regard. The cabinet approved the despatch of 150,000 pilgrims to the hajj this year.

The ministers also heard a report by Br. Rahmani in charge of the relief committee for Iraqi Kurdish refugees who have taken shelter in Iran as a result of the mounting tyranny of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. The cabinet made decision to solve problems of these refugees with the help of all executive organizations.

General Sattari Interviewed on Air Force Role

NC131948 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1810 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Interview with Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, Air Force commander, by unidentified Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Tehran on 13 April—live]]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Welcome. You have honored us by coming here tonight. Good evening. We ask our people through our transmissions to go to shelters when a red alert is sounded. What do you do when the condition is red?

[Sattari] Salutations to our dear imam and resistant nation. During a red condition we are extremely busy with telephone calls, seeing that announcements on the red condition are carried, ascertaining response to the alert, and determining the effects of the missile attacks on sites hit. We are so deeply involved in these details that we are startled to hear the explosion. We can only fulfill our responsibility, that is, announcing the red and white conditions and the missile attack which has taken place.

[Correspondent] Yes, of course. A while ago the Air Force gave us a gift.... [changes thought] I have not introduced you, as the dear nation is well acquainted with your face and voice. However, I will introduce you again. Brigadier General Sattari, respected commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force. Some time ago we heard reports that our valiant sons in our Air Force had made a successful, very successful attack on Baghdad, the center of the enemy's mischief. I would ask you to assess this strong attack by the nation's offspring.

[Sattari] Our dear and courageous pilots are prepared to respond to savage Iraqi attacks, and one of our responses was an attack on Baghdad. We had announced that if Iraq continued its mischiefmaking we would attack Baghdad. One day we announced this, and the next day we attacked Baghdad.

[Correspondent] The general impression is that the war has entered a missile phase and that the phase of aerial attacks has passed. It is from this point of view that I wanted you to provide an assessment.

[Sattari] This is not the case. The epic created by the Air Force in terms of psychological actions and the effects of aerial bombardment are overall important military actions which have a greater effect than simply designating what target a missile should hit. We can determine our objectives and the extent of destruction. With the benefit of the exercises and training we have had, we are able to attack sites with great precision. This is important militarily. In the other example, a missile is simply directed and an unidentified target can be hit, although its location may not be precisly known.

We cannot term this a new phase in the war. No, the Air Force, with the valor and persistence it has gained from our people's spirit of resistance, treads the same path and carries out its assignments. This is, in fact, one of the major efforts of the war. It continues, and it cannot be termed a new phase. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In light of the latest conditions, what in your assessment will be the outcome of the imposed war?

[Sattari] Well, the matter is clear. We shall continue, and, God willing, we will attain victory soon. These are the tidings which his eminence the imam has given, and this resistant and selfless nation has shown that it is forging ahead on this path. It will certainly gain results, and, God willing, the Air Force parade will be held in Karbala'....

[Correspondent, interrupting] God willing!

[Sattari] I see this, and the day will come, God willing, when the martyr-nurturing nation will see that day. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Sir. There have been many questions about a lack of coordination when a siren is sounded and the missiles fall. Could you please answer them?

[Sattari] Achievements to date are, in fact, the result of months of research and endeavor. There are very few countries in the world with this capability. In view of the range of these missiles and their altitude, the timing of a siren is very difficult. We have tried our hardest, praise be to God. As for the missiles, we have been able, praise be to God, to sound the sirens to announce conditions to a great degree. We will continue to improve, and this task is being pursued intensively. God willing, conditions will be improved in this regard. As one of our brother viewers said during a phone-in, some of the announcements of red alerts are for other cities, such as Qom or Esfahan, which may be generally relayed in all three areas. We have instances when a missile is not being launched against Tehran or the particular city where the alarm is being sounded. The siren may be for other cities. We are trying to improve this situation and reach the point where a siren is sounded at the exact time and place needed, so that our dear ones may avail themselves of the shelters as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I have another question. In a world war, in the history of combat, what is the role and effect of missile attacks?

[Sattari] This depends on the kind of missiles used. Missiles which have been designed and used in wars in regions similar to ours are usually meant to be used on the frontlines or against major military targets. They are not for use against civilian targets, cities, residential areas, or yhr likr. The people's spirit of resistance plays a fundamental role in combatting these threats. We, of course, resist these with our own efforts in two ways: retaliation, or in principle to neutralize these movements. Both should be used. In short, a missile war cannot play a major role in attaining victory in a war. What is undisputed is that a war is decided on the fronts. Our fighters realize this very well, and the consistency of their actions in combat operations prove this. We hope to provide air support in this regard, and we hope to continue performing the role that the Air Force can have, which is far greater than that of missiles. [passage omitted].

[Correspondent] As you know, Sir, this is the week to pay tribute to soldiers. I wish to ask you first if you have any message in this regard and second if you have any new information for our dear people. Please say so, if you wish.

[Sattari] Yes. Our soldiers are the epitome of resistance, particularly in the Air Force and in their operational role, and in air defense, aerial reconnaissance, and research. [passage omitted] I hope that, as in the past, they will be successful and victorious. I pray that the outcome of their efforts is final victory.

[Correspondent] I am extremely grateful for your participation in this program. [passage omitted]

Italian, Belgian Doctors Examine Gas Victims

LD110609 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Head of toxicology department of Belgian University, Professor Hendricks, and a group of Italian and Belgian doctors and Italian mediamen visited victims of the March 18 chemical bombing of the city of Halabjah at a Tehran hospital Sunday. Professor Hendricks took pictures of injured patients to include in his planned report.

The professor who visited Iran after the chemical bombing of Majnun Island, four years ago said that the gases deployed in Halabjah were more poisonous than the ones used in Majnun. He confirmed that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime had used cyanide in addition to nerve and mustard gases the combination of which, he said, makes them even more lethal.

Convalescing victims at the hospital called on the visiting reporters to reflect the crimes of the Iraqi regime in international organisations and for the better information of their audience. One victim said that he would certainly go to the war fronts even though he may be exposed to chemical substances for many instances in the future.

The Italian medical team announced its readiness to give every medical assistance to the victims.

Iraqi Mojahedin, SAIRI Forces Hold Rally

LD092306 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—A large group of Iraqi mujahidin and refugees as well as forces of the military unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) staged a rally here Saturday to commemorate the 8th martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr and his sister.

The rally which took place on the second day of the 'Islamic Revolution of Iraq Week' ended with the demonstrators' gathering at a central square in Tehran where SAIRI head Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim paid tribute to the two martyrs.

The participants issued a statement in which they announced their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and vowed to continue their fight until the downfall of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The statement also condemned the chemical bombardment of Halabjah and international silence towards the Iraqi Ba'thist's crime as a result of which thousands of civilians including women and children were killed.

It stressed that all Iraqi Muslims whether Arabs, Kurds, or Turkmans as well as other ethnic minorities should close ranks against the Baghdad regime, the statement also announced support for the Muslim Palestinian uprising.

The famous scholar Ayatollah Baqer Sadr and his sister Bint Alhoda were tortured and martyred by the criminal Ba'thist regime in 1980, for its fear of the growing Islamic movement in Iraq.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Missiles Hit Qom, Esfahan

LD140850 Tehran IRNA in English 0532 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—Civilian quarters in the holy city of Qom and the historical city of Esfahan were subjected to enemy missile attacks this morning. A number of civilians were martyred and wounded in these attacks. Several houses and shops as well as two mosques were also damaged.

3 Dead in Iraqi Missile Attack

LD131054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] This morning the Zionist Iraqi regime launched missile attacks against residential areas of Tehran. According to reports which have been received, these savage acts of the criminal rulers of Baghdad have so far led to the martyrdom of three of our compatriots and the wounding of a number of others and have also caused some damage to a number of residential homes and private vehicles.

2 Missiles Fired at Al-'Amarah

LD131057 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: In retaliation for yesterday's missile attacks by the criminals of Baghdad against the residential parts of our country, at 0907 and 1047 this morning two long-range surface-to-surface missiles were fired by the missile unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran at two important enemy military and economic targets in the town of Al-'Amarah.

Bombings, Ground Operations

LD131127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the selfless pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic, flying several fighter-bombers, conducted two separate operations today at 0955 and 1145. They succeeded in bombing the troop

concentrations and enemy equipment and fortifications in the Sharhani axis of Iraq's Al-'Amarah Province. All planes returned safely to base.

Also, following the great successes and epic-making victories of the army of Islam in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5"operation, a combat patrol unit of the Ground Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 2300 last night in the southern operational sector crossed minefields, booby traps, and barbed wire to penetrate deep into the enemy's positions on two axes. They surprised the Ba'thist forces and inflicted heavy losses on them. They succeeded in destroying more than 50 percent of the (?1st) Battalion of the 703d Brigade of the 29th Division of the Iraqi Army in the Nahr 'Anbar operational sector. They also killed and wound a number of Ba'thist mercenaries and captured some of them.

Iraqi Missile Hits School

LD131656 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded and some houses and shops damaged in Wednesday afternoon's Iraqi missile-attack on Tehran. A school and a historical monument in Tehran were also damaged in the enemy missile-attack.

Communique No 3,171

LD131738 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites in Sharhani, southern sector and Al-'Amarah, eastern Iraq, Wednesday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique hre today.

The 3171st Joint Staff communique said that all the fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying their missions which took place at 09:55 and 11:45 hours local time (06:25 and 08:15 GMT).

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian missile boats, in addition to reconnoitering 11 caro ships and oil tankers, monitored movement of two U.S., one British and one Italian warships yesterday.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, ignoring two provocative warnings from foreign warships yesterday. It provided air cover for the Navy and reconnoitered 67 ships in the waterway.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts, especially in Chazabeh and Sharhani, southern sector, yesterday with the former holding the upper hand.

Iranian patrolmen clashed with some Iraqi patrol units in Zobeydah and Yebis, southern fronts, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy tuesday.

Also, on Tuesday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces checked Iraqi engineering operations in parts of the southern and western sectors, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying six bunkers of theirs, concluded the communique.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD131947 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—A salvo of two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles was fired at two Iraqi military centers in Baghdad at 22:10 hours local time (18:40 GMT) Wednesday.

The missiles were fired by the Missile Unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in retaliation for enemy air and missile attacks on Iranian cities.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Calls Ammunition Blast 'Sabotage'

BK141328 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP)—Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq said Thursday he believed sabotage was behind a weekend explosion at a munitions depot here that killed at least 100 people.

"Without jeopardising what the enquiry has to say, it couldn't be anything else but sabotage. A very effective act of sabotage," he told reporters during a press luncheon Thursday in anticipation of the signing Thursday of an agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

An inquiry into the disaster has not yet been completed, Mr. Zia said, adding that the explosion was not linked to Pakistan's decision to sign the troop withdrawal agreement.

The munitions depot exploded Sunday showering shells, missiles and shrapnel on the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and killing at least 100 people and injuring some 1,100, according to official figures.

The depot apparently housed arms destined for use by the Afghan resistance guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES on Wednesday asserted that the explosion was the work of Kabul's secret service KHAD.

Some diplomats here agree with that theory.

Declines To Name Culprits

OW141417 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 14 Apr 88

["Zia Says Ammunication Dump Blast Was Sabotage"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 KYODO—Pakistani President Ziaul Haq Thursday said the explosion in an army ammunition dump in the Rawalpindi garrison city last Sunday was an act of sabotage.

He told reporters that the explosion in which at least 94 persons were reported killed "could not be anything except" sabotage. However, he declined to speculate on the identify of saboteurs or their motives and asked reporters to wait for the result of a military inquiry.

Destruction of a large number of Afghan rebel trucks inside the dump had fueled the allegations that the ammunition was supplied by the United States for the anticommunist Afghan guerrillas.

Junejo Addresses Nation on Afghanistan Accord

BK141124 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1420 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Address by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to the nation on 13 April—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My dear fellow countrymen:

Peace be upon you. I am addressing you at an important and decisive moment in the history of our dear motherland. I want to talk to you about a decision which is the best example for the success of efforts for peace and security, and which can reasonably be described as historic, as well as a result of which far-reaching positive results will be achieved with regard to political, economic, and future development in this region of the world. I have given the necessary instructions to our delegation in Geneva and, God willing, by tomorrow evening the Geneva accord will be signed.

This would have been a moment of great happiness for us and for the peace-and-freedom-loving people of the world had our nation not been aggrieved by the dreadful accident in Rawalpindi a few days ago, which resulted in the loss of numerous precious lives. The accident will always be remembered as a great tragedy in our history. But, at the same time, the order and discipline, courage, bravery, and unity demonstrated by the Pakistani people at this difficult hour of trial has further strengthened the collective courage and unshakable confidence of the Pakistani nation as a whole.

My dear countrymen, by the grace of God, the dark night of 27 December 1979, which engulfed Islamic Afghanistan and cast its dark shadow over the entire region, is ultimately giving way to the dawn of victory and triumph. That epoch-making moment has now dawned. The Geneva documents have taken a final shape for the overall settlement of the Afghanistan issue. Tomorrow, God willing, important agreements concerning Afghanistan will be signed in Geneva. The Soviet Union will be committed to withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan. Afghanistan will once again be an independent and sovereign state. The Afghan people will be able to set up a government of their own liking without foreign intervention and pressure. The path of peace and reconciliation will be paved and, God willing, the Afghan refugees will be able to go back to their homeland in honor and dignity. We agreed to sign the Geneva accord only after our principled stand had been vindicated.

Eight years ago, when the Soviet troops entered Afghanistan and Afghans began to take refuge in Pakistan, Islamabad fully understood the implications of this intervention, and fully geared itself to help and serve its Afghan brethren, irrespective of those implications. They did their best to arouse international public opinion in their favor by raising the Afghanistan issue at all world forums, including the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement. By the grace of God, our efforts bore fruit, and the unprecedented struggle of the Afghan people for freedom stirred the conscience of the international community, and voices began to rise in their favor from all corners of the world. The support and assistance of all freedom-loving people of the world strengthened the hands of the Afghan mujahidin, making it clear that even unlimited military power will not succeed in subduing the spirit of independence of the Afghan people and in subjugating them.

Since a military solution was not possible, a process of negotiations started about 6 years ago to resolve the problem through peaceful means. The draft agreements now being signed in Geneva are the outcome of these negotiations.

At this stage, I feel it is necessary to clarify two important points. The first is that we have not recognized the present Kabul administration, nor will it be recognized. The second important thing is that the Geneva accord only affects the external aspects of the Afghan issue. The accord does not in any way dilute the Afghan people's right to whatever system of government they elect for themselves and whatever type of government they want to set up. These things are to be settled by the Afghan people alone and nobody from outside can interfere in this process. We, as a nation, can rightfully be proud of the steadfastness, the adherence to principles, and the unity demonstrated by Pakistan and its people in arriving at a peaceful solution to this problem. We have achieved this success by the grace of God.

As you know, I thought it necessary to take the entire nation into confidence in view of the importance of this decision, which will leave a deep impact not only on the

present and the future of Pakistan, but also on the entire region. First of all, I consulted with the elected representatives in the National Parliament; then held discussions with the political leaders; and visited all provincial capitals one after another and exchanged views with every sector of the people.

These consultations have enabled your government to reach a peaceful and honorable settlement to the Afghanistan problem. As a head of an elected government, it was my duty to seek the support of the Pakistani people for every step we had to take in connection with this problem. When I took the reins of power in my hands, the most important and difficult problem that we confronted was the problem of Afghanistan.

Naturally, therefore, it has been our endeavor to find an honorable solution to this problem as soon as possible. It is due to our tireless efforts of the last few months and our unflinching stand that the Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan within 9 months instead of 4 years, thus sparing us extra difficulties that could have been created by a lengthy time frame. The withdrawal will start on 15 May. Along with this, the Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw half of its forces within 3 months. Under this accord, the Soviet troops will be withdrawn from all regions of Afghanistan.

For us, the return of 3 million Afghan refugees in an atmosphere of dignity and freedom is as important as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. That is why we have made sure that along with implementing the accord, efforts will begin under Mr Cordovez's mediation to set up a new, broad-based government in Afghanistan. It is clear that any such government cannot be set up without mujahidin representation.

Besides this, the main change incorporated in the accord's (?terms), due to our insistence and efforts, is that if the Soviet Union continues to supply military aid to the present unrepresentative Kabul administration, the United States will also continue its assistance to the Afghan mujahidin. This has ended any fears of a possible weakening in the Afghan mujahidin position. They will be able to deal with the future situation from a position of strength. A document has now been added to the Geneva accord which states that the United Nations will monitor the implementation of the accord.

Attempts were made to pressure Pakistan into signing the accord by 15 March. But we were not ready to tolerate any conditions which would cause us at the negotiating table to lose everything that the Afghan mujahidin have achieved on the battlefront. Our people were authorized to seek a peaceful solution, but only on honorable grounds. As an elected representative government, we had to abide by this. The government and the people of Pakistan have always acted steadfastly and on the basis of principles in connection with this problem.

In 1979, when this problem arose, the government then, led by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, made the same decision in keeping with our national interests and our ideological requirements. During the entire period, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, not only maintained his personal involvement and interest in the Afghanistan problem, but also played a very important role in resolving it successfully.

During the various phases of the negotiations to solve this issue, especially in the last phase, we consulted directly with the representatives of the Afghan refugees and the Afghan mujahidin, so that their interests were defended.

We were also in constant consultations with our fraternal country Iran because according to their estimates, they also have about 2 million Afghan refugees. The Government of Iran agrees with us that no delay should be allowed in the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

We are thankful to the friendly countries who have, in this entire freedom struggle, supported and assisted the Afghan people and mujahihin in every way. First comes the name of the United States which freely supported the Afghan freedom fighters and provided all kinds of assistance to look after the Afghan refugees. No words will match the way in which the United States overwhelmingly supported the principled stand of Pakistan. We are particularly appreciative of President Reagan's determined and principled stand, because of which this great freedom struggle is being crowned with success.

Our great neighbor China—of whose friendship the people of Pakistan are reasonably proud—has cooperated completely with us the entire time. In this struggle the China's role has been very distinct and strong.

Saudi Arabia has supported the Afghan struggle in accordance with Islamic traditions. This was expected of them in view of the distinguished position they enjoy as the servants of the two holy Islamic shrines in Mecca. We are particularly thankful to King Fahd, who extended assistance and support for the government's stand at all stages.

The consistency and determination with which Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Economic Community member-nations supported the freedom struggle of the Afghan people has also played an important part in their success. The Islamic Conference Organization and most of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement also deserve our gratitude. The fact is that except for a handful of countries, the entire world has supported the principled stand on Afghanistan.

In this connection, 123 member-nations voted in favor of Pakistan's resolution at the last session of the General Assembly. We thank them all for this overwhelming support. The United Nations has undoubtedly played a key role in the peaceful solution to the Afghanistan

problem, which once again reflects the effectiveness of this organization in world peace. This settlement has been possible only due to the personal interest of the UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, and the untiring efforts of his representative, Diego Cordovez. The role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in looking after the millions of refugees and the scale on which the World Food Program has assisted them are praiseworthy.

In addition to this assistance, the one thing that changed the course of history is the Afghan people's own faith and confidence, and their spirit of freedom and sacrifice. In history, we have certainly heard the stories of courage and bravery of the Muslims of the old ages. But today, we have seen with our own eyes that even the mujahidin, with no resources of their own, can face the most powerful, provided they have the strength of their unshaken faith.

God enjoins us in the holy Koran that He never leaves His Muslim subjects helpless. But, He puts them to a thorough test to examine the strength of their faith. How fortunate the Afghan mujahidin are that they passed this test successfully! Even after sacrificing 1.5 million lives, the spirit of their holy war has not dampened. They have proved that they can sacrifice the lives of their children to protect their independence and the ideology of their life, but they will never foresake them.

I salute those Afghan mujahidin and the martyrs, who nurtured every inch of their soil with their sacred blood. I also salute the souls of those hundreds of thousands of people who became victims of terrorism for supporting their Afghan brethren. I salute the people of Pakistan, who remained steadfast for the past 8 years in the war of principles and who resolutely faced all kinds of pressures, threats, and difficulties. I particularly salute the people of the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan who faced the difficulties smilingly. I also salute all freedom-loving people of the world who sided with the upholders of independence in the battle between freedom and oppression. Everyone who provided support and assistance—material, verbal, and moral—and did whatever possible to uphold the truth in the battle between truth and falsehood, has become victorious at last.

Today, the world has seen that falsehood, no matter how powerful, cannot stand the truth. Certain less courageous people have spared no effort in spreading disappointment and rejection among people, and in making predictions of devastation and destruction. But the people, who have been raised with a spirit of freedom and a sense of honor, and whose hearts throb with the strength of their faith, will never let their spirits be subdued by the thoughts of profits and losses. They will fearlessly jump into Nimrod's fire. [the Biblical story in which it is stated that King Nimrod cast Abraham into fire]

We are proud our fate has availed us the opportunity to share the pains and sufferings of the Afghan refugees. Whatever we did for them was not a favor. We have rather fulfilled our religious and humanitarian obligations. History has rarely provided such an opportunity to any nation. We are thankful to Almighty God that He blessed us with success in this test. Undoubtedly, this occasion will be regarded as the best moment in the annals of Pakistan's history.

Pakistan and Afghanistan may be two separate entities, but they have a similar soul working inside them. Their wishes, ambitions, and aspirations are similar. The region in which both of them have been brought closer by history is unique in its geopolitical importance. Where could millions of Afghan refugees have taken refuge if there were no Pakistan? There is no denying the fact that the Afghan freedom fighters have waged a holy war for the sake of their independence, but they have also fought the war for Pakistan's security as well. The difficulties faced by both countries have further bolstered, deepened, and consolidated their mutual ties. Now, they can shape the destiny of this region through mutual assistance and cooperation.

The intervention of Soviet troops in Afghanistan brought a basic change in the geopolitical and military situation of the entire region, and now the withdrawal of these troops will also bring about basic and far-reaching changes in the entire region. The success of the Afghan people has put international relations on a new path. Now, the age of imperialism has ended forever.

On this occasion, I cannot but commend CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's wisdom and farsightedness. He displayed courage, according to his own words, to stanch the bleeding wounds caused by Afghanistan and adopted a peaceful way. The wounds inflicted on Afghanistan by the war will take a long time to heal and the Soviet Union, in particular, and other countries in general, will have to play a positive role.

I hope that after this issue is settled, a new era will dawn in relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. This will not only have a far-reaching impact on relations between the two countries, but also the entire region. The Soviet Union, along with the United states, has made assurances that it will respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

I would also like to openly acknowledge the services rendered by the sons of Pakistan, who, being imbued with the spirit of patriotism, have silently worked day and night and have succeeded in safeguarding the interests of their motherland. In the UN-sponsored negotiations the services rendered by former Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan are worth mentioning. Zain Noorani also deserves our thanks for his dedication, hard work, and ability with which he discharged his duties in passing through the most difficult stages and in

bringing the efforts to a successful conclusion. The performance of Foreign Ministry officials also deserves our praise in this connection.

The Afghan war is now coming to an end, but the great and the nonetheless difficult struggle for its rehabilitation has not yet begun. I am confident that all the free nations of the world will fully support the Afghan people so that they may be able to revive their national life and to reconstruct their economy. I would like to hold out an assurance from the government and people of Pakistan to our Afghan brethren that we will provide every possible assistance to them for their rehabilitation. They will always find us as their trusted friends and companions. I pray that God may grant them full compensation for their unprecedented sacrifices. I also pray that the feelings of love and the ties of brotherhood, harmony, and unity between the people of Pakistan and their Afghan counterparts may last forever. Amen. Long live Pakistan.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Hail Accord

BK141634 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has described as historic the signing of the Geneva accord. He told journalists in Islamabad today that the courageous struggle of the Afghan people will go down in history without a parellel. He paid rich compliments to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and his intermediary, Mr Diego Cordovez, saying that it was an achievement of the United Nations itself. The president said Pakistan now looks forward to the future and hopes that peace and tranquility will return to Afghanistan soon with the installation of a representative government there.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in an interview today said reason and good sense have finally prevailed in Geneva, and as a result of the accord, Afghanistan will be free again. He said it is a victory of principles and an historic occasion. The prime minister appealed to the world community to come forward and help the Afghans to rebuild their country and economy.